



# SAUDIS HALT OIL EXPORTS IN RED SEA LANE AFTER ATTACKS

## Impact on Kuwait oil exports limited

Riyadh eyes need for international intervention

**KUWAIT CITY/DUBAI, July 26, (Agencies): A recent attack by the Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement on a Saudi oil tanker in the Bab Al Mandeb strait has had only a limited impact on Kuwait exports, the state news agency KUNA reported on Thursday.**

Sheikh Talal Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, chief executive of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, said 90 percent of Kuwaiti oil shipments were routed to Asia and did not pass through the Bab Al Mandeb strait on the Red Sea.

Around 10 percent of Kuwait's oil shipments, mainly refined oil products, pass through the strait, he added.

Saudi Arabia said on Thursday it was suspending oil shipments through a strategic Red Sea lane after Houthis at-

tacked two tankers in the waterway, underscoring the risk of an escalation in tensions in the region.

Brent futures rose 19 cents to \$74.12 a barrel by 1305 GMT, extending their rally into a third day but slipping from a 10-day high in earlier trading.

Saudi Arabia and arch-foe Iran have been locked in a three-year proxy war in Yemen, which lies on one side of the Bab Al-Mandeb strait at the southern mouth of the sea, one of the most important trade routes for oil tankers heading from the Middle East to Europe.

The Houthis, who have previously threatened to block the strait, said on Thursday that they had the naval capability to hit Saudi ports and other Red Sea targets. Iran has threatened to block another strategic shipping route, the Strait of Hormuz.

### Opinion

## Saudi and Gulf position to wake the world from its slumber

By Ahmed Al-Jarallah

Editor-in-Chief, the Arab Times

WHEN the world turned its back on Yemen in 2011, the Yemenis were left with only the GCC countries to rescue them by laying down a mechanism to resolve the crisis that enveloped their country and to wipe out the cup of civil war from their lips. The war hardly ended when the Iranian-backed Houthi coup occurred, making the intervention of the Saudi-led Gulf coalition inevitable in order to prevent the transformation of Yemen into another Somalia.

Unfortunately, the world has been folding arms over the Houthi threats in the last three-and-a-half years. In reality, it is Iran that threatens global security and regional stability. It almost made itself an ostrich which buries its head in the sand due to the time bomb being planted for international energy safety.

The Houthi attacks on ships and navigation routes as well as the booby trap set in the Yemeni regional waters bring back memories of the catastrophic piracy perpetrated by Somali militants in the past two decades. This piracy led to hijacking of 149 ships and 125 towns; hence, the harsh international military response which restored safety in the navigation routes along the African coasts.

A couple of days ago, the Houthis attacked two Saudi oil tankers, which added a new crime to the list of attacks on the global energy safety. It was an implementation of Iran's threat to shut down straits in the region if countries across the world stop the import of its oil due to new US sanctions. In contrast, there has not been any serious international reaction in this regard, especially after the so-called 'Failaq Al-Quds' Commander Qasim Sulaimani followed the attack with a direct threat to US President Donald Trump, saying "The Red Sea is no longer safe for the US forces".

The series of counter threats between Washington and Tehran has been negatively affecting energy safety. To avoid recurrence of the 1988 incidents and the tankers war, Saudi Arabia issued

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People watch pearl divers as they arrive at the main beach in Kuwait City, at the end of the 30th annual pearl diving festival, on July 26. Pearl diving trips are held annually under the patronage of HH the Amir in order to keep alive traditions that accompanied the once important national trade of pearl diving, prior to the discovery of oil. — See Page 3

### Faith in Western allies wanes

## UAE ready to step up security role

LONDON, July 26, (RTRS): The United Arab Emirates is ready to deploy more troops across the Middle East to counter its foes as it believes it can no longer rely on Western allies like the United States and Britain, UAE minister Anwar Gargash said on Thursday.

Filling the vacuum left by the administration of former US president Barack Obama, the UAE has extended its influence by deploying troops and cash across the Middle East and Africa, where it has built up local armies and set up military bases.

"In this current international system, it is no longer 'write a cheque and someone is going to come and secure the stability in the region.' You have to do some of the burden-sharing," Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in a speech in London.

The UAE has been fighting the Iranian-aligned Houthis in Yemen for more than three years, and backed forces opposed to political Islam in Libya and elsewhere.

With its closest ally Saudi Arabia, the UAE has been locked in a power struggle with their arch-rival Iran that has played out across the region and taken on a sectarian dimension. Each accuses the other of creating instability in the region.

Gargash said he was concerned about divergence between Western powers over the future of relations with Iran.

"As we move forward, we do really hope that the current American effort to bring about a change in Iranian approach is successful. We are worried a little bit about what is seen as a divergence of view between Europe and the United States over Iran," he said at the Policy Exchange think-tank event.

UAE sees the more forceful approach towards Iran taken by the United States as a more effective means of curbing what it sees as Iran's malign activity and development of ballistic missiles than European attempts to rescue a 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

In May US President Donald Trump withdrew from the multinational agreement that lifted

ANKARA, July 26, (Agencies): An Iranian military commander said on Thursday that Donald Trump should address any threats against Tehran directly to him, and mocked the US president as using the language of "night clubs and gambling halls".

The comments by Major-General Qassem Soleimani, who heads the Quds Force of Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards Corps, were the latest salvo in a war of words between the two countries.

"As a soldier, it is my duty to respond to Trump's threats. If he wants to use the language of threat, he should talk to me, not to the president (Hassan Rouhani)," Soleimani was quoted as saying by the Iranian Young Journalists' Club.

Soleimani's message was in essence a warning to the United States to stop threatening Iran with war or risk exposing itself to an Iranian response.

"We are near you, where you can't even imagine ... Come. We are ready. If you begin the war, we will end the war," Tasnim news agency quoted Soleimani as saying.

On Sunday night, Trump said in a tweet directed at Rouhani: "Never, ever threaten the United States again or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history have ever suffered before. We are no longer a country that will stand for your demented words of violence & death. Be cautious!"

A day earlier, Rouhani had addressed Trump

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This undated photo made available on July 26, 2018 by Dubai Police, shows a rare \$20 million blue diamond confiscated by police in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dubai police say they've recovered a rare \$20 million blue diamond stolen from a city company's vault and smuggled to Sri Lanka inside a pair of sneakers in a shoebox. (AP)

### Newswatch

**WASHINGTON:** A long-awaited Middle East peace plan from the Trump administration will include what the White House is calling a robust economic plan to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, an official has said.

US President Donald Trump's envoys are also working on the most detailed set of proposals to date for the overall plan, the White House official said in a briefing with reporters on Monday.

The plan thus far has no release date. Trump had hoped to reveal it early this year but his decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and moving the embassy there, reversing decades of US policy, inflamed tensions in the region. (RTRS)

**GAZA CITY:** Employees of the UN Palestinian refugee agency escalated their protest Wednesday in the Gaza Strip against sweeping pay cuts and dismissals as the organization blamed US funding cuts on the crisis.

Hundreds of UNRWA staff continued a sit-in that began Monday at the organization's Gaza office and announced plans to go on an open-ended strike, demanding the agency cancel recent job eliminations and downgrading of contracts.

"We declare a labor dispute. We will practice all union work. After the strike tomorrow, we will take more steps that could paralyze life in the Gaza Strip," Amir al-Miss'hal, head of UNRWA's Palestinian employees union, told The Associated Press. (AP)

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### Kurds doubt US

## Toll in 'ISIS' Syria attacks nears 250

BEIRUT, July 26, (Agencies): The death toll in coordinated Islamic State group attacks in Syria's Sweida neared 250 on Thursday, the Druze-majority province's heaviest loss of life of the seven-year civil war.

Sweida, which is mainly government-held, had been largely insulated from the conflict raging in the rest of the country since 2011.

But Wednesday's onslaught shattered the relative calm and showed that IS retains the ability to mount deadly attacks against civilians, despite being ousted from its last remaining urban pockets in recent months.

Four suicide bombers struck the city of Sweida, while other IS fighters attacked villages to its north and east with guns and explosives.

The death toll reached 246 on Thursday, 135 of them civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

The others killed were pro-government fighters or residents who had taken up arms to defend their villages.

"The toll keeps rising as civilians who were wounded are dying and people who were unaccounted for are found dead," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP.

It was the deadliest attack for the province and one of the highest tolls in IS attacks across the country.

State television broadcast footage of the funeral processions in Sweida, showing men in the traditional white caps of the Druze minority exchanging condolences.

Men carried caskets draped in the two-star government flag and pictures of those killed, against a backdrop of the rainbow colours representing their community.

At least 56 jihadists died carrying out

Continued on Page 8

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said the Houthis attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea on Wednesday, one of which sustained minimal damage.

"Saudi Arabia is temporarily halting all oil shipments through Bab Al-Mandeb strait immediately until the situation becomes clearer and the maritime transit through Bab al-Mandeb is safe," he said.

Saudi crude exports through Bab Al-Mandeb are estimated at around 500,000-700,000 barrels per day (bpd), according to analysts and Reuters data. Most Gulf oil exports that transit the Suez Canal and SUMED Pipeline pass through the strait.

The powerful commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Quds force, Qassem Soleimani, criticised the US role in the Red Sea.

"The Red Sea, which was secure, is no longer secure with the American presence ... (US President Donald) Trump should know that we are nation of martyrdom and that we await him," Soleimani was quoted as saying on Thursday.

### Suspension

Industry and shipping sources said the suspension was unlikely to impact Saudi crude supplies to Asia, but could add shipping costs to Saudi vessels heading to Europe and the United States due to a longer transit.

Traders said the suspension order was only for Saudi-owned vessels, so state-owned Saudi Aramco could still charter foreign ships to move its crude.

Saudi Arabia also has a pipeline route to the city of Yanbu on the Red Sea keeping Europe and North America well supplied — the 5-million-bpd Petrolina.

The world's largest oil exporter has kept its crude shipments flowing during previous regional conflicts, including the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war when the two sides sought to disrupt each other's oil exports in what was known as the Tanker War.

The OPEC heavyweight, an important US ally, has led a pact among oil producers to boost output to cool the market after Trump imposed sanctions on Iran and criticised OPEC for high prices.

Saudi state media reported shortly after Falih's announcement that the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired a meeting of the Political and Security Affairs Council but did not mention what topics were discussed.

### Coalition

Saudi Arabia leads a coalition of Sunni Muslim Arab states which intervened in Yemen's war in 2015 to restore the internationally recognised government in exile and thwart what Riyadh sees as Tehran's expansionist ambitions in the region.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates strongly backed Trump's decision to quit a nuclear deal with Iran. They accuse Iran of supplying the Houthis with weapons, including missiles, which the group and Tehran deny.

The latest attack on Saudi oil tankers could strengthen the two Arab states' position ahead of possible UN-sponsored peace talks between Yemen's warring parties, which aim to avoid an all-out assault on Yemen's main port city of Hodeidah.

The Western-backed military alliance launched an offensive on June 12 to wrest Hodeidah from the Houthis in a bid to cut off the primary supply line of the movement, which holds the most populated areas of Yemen including the capital Sanaa.

But the alliance did not make major gains and on July 1 it

Continued on Page 6

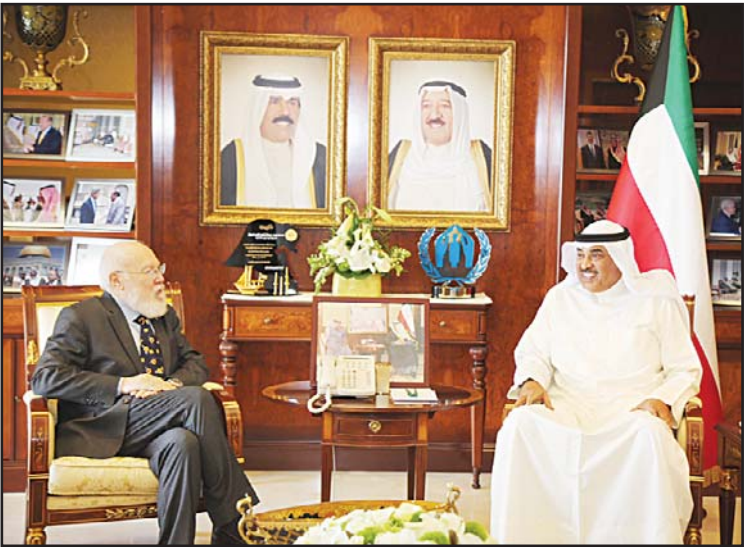
Continued on Page 8

▼	US\$/KD 0.30235/45
▼	Euro/KD 0.3527
■	Yen/KD 0.0027
▲	British £/KD 0.3526
▲	KSE +7.76 pts at closing July 26 See Page 29
▲	DOW +108.18 pts at 21:30 July 26 See Page 30
▼	Nasdaq -74.95 pts at 21:30 July 26
▲	FTSE +4.91 pts at closing July 26
▼	Nikkei -27.38 pts at closing July 26
▲	Gold \$1,230.55 per oz (London)
▲	NYMEX crude \$69.68 per barrel
▲	Brent crude \$74.38 per barrel
▲	3-month \$ LIBOR rate 2.33688%





Lieut-Gen Thomas Beckett



Outgoing Argentinian ambassador



Outgoing Canadian ambassador

KUNA photos

FM receives executive director of IISS, outgoing Argentinian, Canadian envoys

Acting Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Thursday received the Executive Director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Lieutenant General Thomas Beckett who is currently on an official visit in Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid also received the Ambassador of Argentina to Kuwait H.E. Jorge Omar Antonio Biga whose diplomatic mission in Kuwait is coming to an end.

In addition, he received the outgoing Ambassador of Canada to Kuwait HE Martine Moreau. He praised the efforts exerted by Ambassadors Biga and Moreau during their tenure in the country as well as their contributions to enhance the bilateral ties between Kuwait and their countries.

Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Office of Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and a number of officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present during the three meetings. (KUNA)

Statistics issued on number of degree holders ‘contradictory’

‘Big gap seen between PACI and CSC numbers’



KUNA photo

Ministry of Health on Thursday organized a free Hepatitis C detection test and medical consultancy titled ‘Time Up for Test, Treatment and Recovery’ to commemorate the International Hepatitis Day 2018. The event was held under the auspices of the Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Quality Affairs Dr Mohammad Al-Khashti.

By Najeh Bilal  
Al-Seyassah Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26:** There are contradictions in the official statistics issued by the government concerning the number of citizens who obtained masters’ and doctorate degrees. The numbers specified by Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) in their statistics do not add up.

The statistics issued by PACI reveals that 6,100 Kuwaitis hold masters’ and doctorate degrees as of December 2017. On the other hand, the statistics issued by CSC indicate that the public sector has 11,236 Kuwaiti employees who obtained masters’ and doctorate degrees, including 3,906 PhD holders and 7,330 masters’ degree holders.

When adding this number to the number of citizens with high qualifications who are not working in the public sector, we will find that there is a clear contradiction, and a big gap between the numbers of PACI and CSC. We will realize that the number of citizens who have high qualifications and work in the public sector is almost double the total number of citizens who hold these academic qualifications.

The fact defies logic because it is impossible for a part to be double of the whole unless the number of fraud cases and holders of bogus certificates have reached huge volumes matching the number of real holders of accredited and recognized academic qualifications. Or there might be some randomness in collation of data by the different government bodies.

Prof of College of Business Administration at Kuwait University Dr Ali Al-Habbabi stressed that the issue of fake certificates is a painful reality from all standards, not only because of the people who are forging these certificates but it uncovers another painful reality represented by the extent of negligence by those with the responsibility of monitoring academic qualifications.

RIHS to organize lecture ‘The Minor Signs of the Hour’

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26:** The Committee of Da’awah and Guidance affiliated to Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS) in Shamiya will organize a lecture titled “The Minor Signs of the Hour” which will be presented by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Kasaar on Sunday at 9:30 pm at the headquarters of the committee in Shamiya Block 8, Street 88, House 5.

According to a press release, the lecture will be for men only.

It is worth mentioning that the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, through its different committees, organizes various Sharia courses and lectures, Quran memorization workshops and cultural, educational and sports activities. These courses and activities have been successful and registering big turnout.

All of the above are being organized by the society based on its keenness to encourage pursuit for seeking Islamic knowledge and organize activities for that purpose.



Director-General of ALECSO Dr Saud Al-Harbi

‘Govt backs Kuwait’s cultural movement’

ALECSO chief hopes Kuwait to host first Arab Cultural Summit

**CAIRO, July 26, (KUNA):** Director-General of the Arab League’s Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) Dr Saud Al-Harbi hoped Wednesday Kuwait will host the first Arab Cultural Summit due to its pioneering role in disseminating culture in the region.

The Arab Cultural Summit is deemed a large-scale cultural event, while Kuwait has long been interested in culture, Al-Harbi told reporters at the Cairo-based Arab League.

He added: “The Kuwaiti cultural movement is leading and deserves special praise, as it is backed by the government, and has nothing to do whatsoever with politics.” Commending Kuwait’s role and contributions to spreading culture in the Arab region, Al-Harbi said the State of Kuwait can ensure a successful cultural gathering.

The cultural movement in Kuwait is supported by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has been interested in culture since he was the director of the Guidance and News Department in the middle of last century, he said.

Kuwait boasts effective cultural institutions, mainly the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NC-CAL) and Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, the ALECSO chief noted.

Al-Harbi pointed out major Kuwaiti magazines like Al-Arabi and Alam Alfikir (World of Thought), the National Theatre series and kids’ books.

The Arab crisis is undoubtedly a cultural one, he believed, adding that culture is the basis for community-building.

Prayer to be held at several mosques

Ministry of Awqaf concludes plans to organize eclipse prayer on Friday

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26:** Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has concluded plans to organize the eclipse prayer (Salat Al-Khosouf) at several mosques across the country, reports Al-Nahar daily.

This information was revealed in a circular issued by the ministry’s Assistant Undersecretary for Mosques Sector Engineer Dawood Al-Asousi to directors of the sector in all governorates. He made reference to the Holy Prophet’s (PBUH) explanation that the sun and the

moon are two signs of Allah and do not eclipse because of the death or birth of someone, so Muslims should make haste for the prayer when they see them.

He also said total eclipse is anticipated on Friday at 9:24 pm and performing the prayer during the period amounts to obedience to Sunnah of the Holy Prophet. For this reason, the ministry enjoins worshippers to participate in the prayer from the beginning to the end of the eclipse at any of the designated mosques.

News in Brief

**Tunisian leader cables Amir:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a congratulatory cable from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi on Wednesday over the successful surgery of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir sent President Essebsi a reply cable, thanking him for his kind sentiments, wishing Tunisia and its people peace, security and further development. (KUNA)

□ □ □

**Amir congratulates Liberia:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent on Thursday, a cable of congratulations to Liberian President George Weah on his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. (KUNA)

□ □ □

**Amir congratulates Maldives:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent

Thursday a cable of congratulations to the President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom on the occasion of his country’s National Day.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. (KUNA)

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**Speaker sends cables:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim sent on Thursday cables of congratulations to Liberian Parliament Speaker Bhofal Chambers and Head of the Senate Jewel Ciane Howard Taylor, as well as its interim head Senator Albert Chie on their country’s national day. (KUNA)

□ □ □

**Special song on recovery of MoD:** Young singer Nawwaf Al-Shami has announced that he will soon release a special song on the recovery of First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah after his successful treatment abroad, reports Al-Rai daily.

He added he will travel to Dubai to participate in a concert on Thursday.

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Top and above: Some photos from the closing ceremony of the 30th Pearl Diving Voyage.

Photos by Bassam Abu Shanab

### Temperature to range between 47-49°C

‘Hot, sandy weather to prevail with northwesterly winds in weekend’

KUWAIT CITY, July 26, (KUNA): Kuwait Meteorological Center announced on Thursday that the country is currently affected by the Indian seasonal trough, accompanied by dry and hot masses of air, with sandy weather and low to zero visibility in some areas, with high sea waves.

Meteorologist Yasser Al-Bloushi said in remarks to (KUNA) that the weather today was hot, with temperature ranging between 46-48 degrees Celsius, and sea with light to moderate waves of two to six feet in height, and northwesterly winds, of moderate to active speed, ranging between 20-50 kms per hour, accompanied with dust.

Meanwhile, the weather at night was relatively hot and dusty, with temperature ranging between 32-35 degrees Celsius,

and northwesterly winds, of moderate to active speed, ranging between 25-55 kilometers per hour, and sea of moderate to high waves of four to seven feet, he added.

The weather Friday morning will be dusty and very hot, with temperature ranging between 47-49 degrees Celsius, and string winds ranging between 30-70 kms per hour, while the sea is of moderate to high waves of four to eight feet in height, he said.

Meanwhile, the weather Friday night will be relatively hot and dusty with temperature ranging between 31-34 degrees, and northwesterly winds of moderate to active speed, ranging between 25-55 kms per hour, while the sea will be of moderate to high waves, and four to seven feet in height, he said.

### Kuwait Today

Prayer Timings	
Fajr	03:35
Sunrise	05:05
Zohr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Maghrib	18:44
Isha	20:11

Weather	
Expected weather for the next 24 hours:	
By Night: Relatively hot and dusty with moderate fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 25-60 km/h.	
By Day: Very hot with light to moderate freshening gradually north westerly winds, with speed of 15-50 km/h causing rising dust.	
Station	Max Exp Min Rec
Kuwait City	47 35
Kuwait Airport	47 33
Abdaly	47 33
Bubyan	- -
Jahra	47 35
Fallaka Island	46 32
Salmiyah	45 36
Ahmadi	41 36
Nuwaisib	45 33
Wafra	46 34
Salmy	44 31

4 days forecast - Weather	
Friday, July 27	
Expected weather...Very hot and dusty	
Max Temp	47C
Min Temp	35C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	30-70 km/h
Saturday, July 28	
Expected weather...Hot with a chance for rising dust	
Max Temp	46C
Min Temp	34C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	25-65 km/h
Sunday, July 29	
Expected weather...Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	
Max Temp	46C
Min Temp	32C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	20-45 km/h
Monday, July 30	
Expected weather...Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	
Max Temp	47C
Min Temp	33C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	15-42 km/h

Marine Forecast	
Station	Max Exp Min Rec Sea Surf Today's Waves
South Dolphin	43 33 - 6ft SE
Umm Mudyarah	- - - 6ft SE

Beacon M28	-	-	-	6ft	SE
Beacon N6	44	32	-	6ft	SE
Qaruh Island	39	33	-	6ft	SE
Umm Al-Maradem	39	34	-	6ft	SE
Sea Island Buoy	-	-	-	-	-
Salmiyah	45	34	-	6ft	SE

4 days forecast - Marine	
Friday, July 27	
Expected weather...Very hot and dusty	
Sea state	Moderate to rough
Wave height	4-8 ft
Max Temp	47C
Min Temp	35C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	30-70 km/h
Saturday, July 28	
Expected weather...Hot with a chance for rising dust	
Sea state	Moderate to rough
Wave height	4-8 ft
Max Temp	46C
Min Temp	34C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	25-65 km/h
Sunday, July 29	
Expected weather...Hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	
Sea state	Moderate to rough
Wave height	3-6 ft
Max Temp	46C
Min Temp	32C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	20-45 km/h
Monday, July 30	
Expected weather...Very hot with a chance for rising dust over open areas	
Sea state	Slight to moderate, rough at times
Wave height	2-6 ft
Max Temp	47C
Min Temp	33C
Wind Direction	NW
Wind Speed	15-42 km/h

Tide times at Shuwaikh Port	
1st high tide	23:25
2nd high tide	10:20
1st low tide	04:40
2nd low tide	18:16
Sunrise	05:04
Sunset	18:44

Recorded yesterday at Kuwait Airport	
Max temp	46C
Min temp	31C
Max Rh	27%
Min Rh	08%
Max Wind	NW 46 km/h
Total Rainfall in 24 hrs	0 mm

Recorded yesterday at South Dolphin	
Min/Max/ Air Temp	32/43C
Min/Max Rel Hum	12/63%
Wind Direction/Wind Speed	NW/24 km/h
Prev Wave Dir/Max Wave Ht	N/-R
Min/Max Sea Surface Temp	-/- C
Sea Current	Upwelling

— Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Meteorological Dept.

### deaths

**Shamah Falah Minawer**, wife of Awath Ghali Zawayed Al Azemi, 83 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: Dahiyat Sabah Al Salem, Block 11, Avenue 6, Street 1, House 32, Tel: 98082020; **Ahmad Mohammad Khalifa Al Kandari**, 84 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Shaab, Diwan Al Kanadra, Tel: 99228929. (Women) Dahiyat Abdullah Al Mubarak, Block 5, Street 505, House 77, Tel: 99509424; **Abdullah Ali Al Mandi**, 88 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: Adailiya, Block 3, Al Raed Street, House 7, Tel: 50888828/99022635; **Rahma Salem Hamad Kamaad Al Mari**, widow of Abdul Muhssen Kamaad Al Mari, 82 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Jleeb Shuyoukh, Block 4, Street 316, House 24, Tel: 55561222. (Women) Rabiya, Block 1, Street 40, House 6; **Adel Bandar Faleh Al Abdullah**, 74 years old, buried on Thursday. Condolences: (Men) Andalous, Block 4, Street 20, House 41, Tel: 96602011. (Women) Qurtoba, Block 2, Street 2, House 46, Tel: 50772223; **Talib Yousef Isa Al Eid**, 65 years old, to be buried on Friday after Asr Prayers. Condolences: (Men) Rehab, Block 1, Street 13, House 26, Tel: 90028003. (Women) Andalous, Block 6, Street 8, House 239.

July 26, 2018

### 30th Memorial Pearl Diving Voyage comes to end

**By Fares Al-Abadan**  
Al-Seyassah Staff

The 30th Memorial Pearl Diving Voyage, which was organized by the Marine Heritage Committee of the Kuwait Sea Sports Club under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, has come to an end.

State Minister for National Assembly Affairs Adel Al-Kharafi represented His Highness the Amir during the closing ceremony.

Qefal Club witnessed the end of the voyage in the presence of the families of the participating families and announced the gains of the voyage.

Minister Al-Kharafi affirmed that revival of the pearl diving tradition is an important activity that reflects the pride of the Kuwaiti youth in their heritage, stressing that Kuwait Sea Sports Club deserves to be honored and appreciated for organizing such a national event.

He congratulated the participating youth for their safe return after exerting tremendous efforts and completing the hard task.

# Al-Mutairi submits proposal on employment of ex-convicts

‘Allow children of army personnel to enrol in schools near homes’

**By Ahmed Al-Naqeeb**  
Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26: MP Majed Al-Mutairi has submitted a proposal on employing ex-convicts in the public sector after serving their sen-**

**tence and upon release from prison, or at least, establish an authority that will handle their affairs.**

Explaining his proposal, the MP said an ex-convict’s happiness over being released from prison is dampened by the fact that some laws and regulations hinder his reintegration into so-



Above: Some photos from the honoring ceremony.

### Dutch envoy attends honoring of Ahmadi fire personnel

The Ambassador of Netherlands to Kuwait Frans Jacob Potuyt attended an event organized in honor of members of the Ahmadi Fire Safety Department who participated in a training course by Dutch Flow-

er Company.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the Deputy General Director for Safety Affairs Major General Khalid Abdullah Fahd.

KFSD photos

ciety. He cited as an example the law requiring an ex-convict to maintain good conduct for at least five years before being eligible for employment in the public sector.

He revealed that when they visited the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to request for aid, the ministry demanded for a set of paperwork which, he believes, is unnecessary; especially since this paperwork must be renewed every six months.

Taking such factors into consideration, the MP submitted the proposal and urged the government to look into the possibility of establishing an authority for ex-convict affairs.

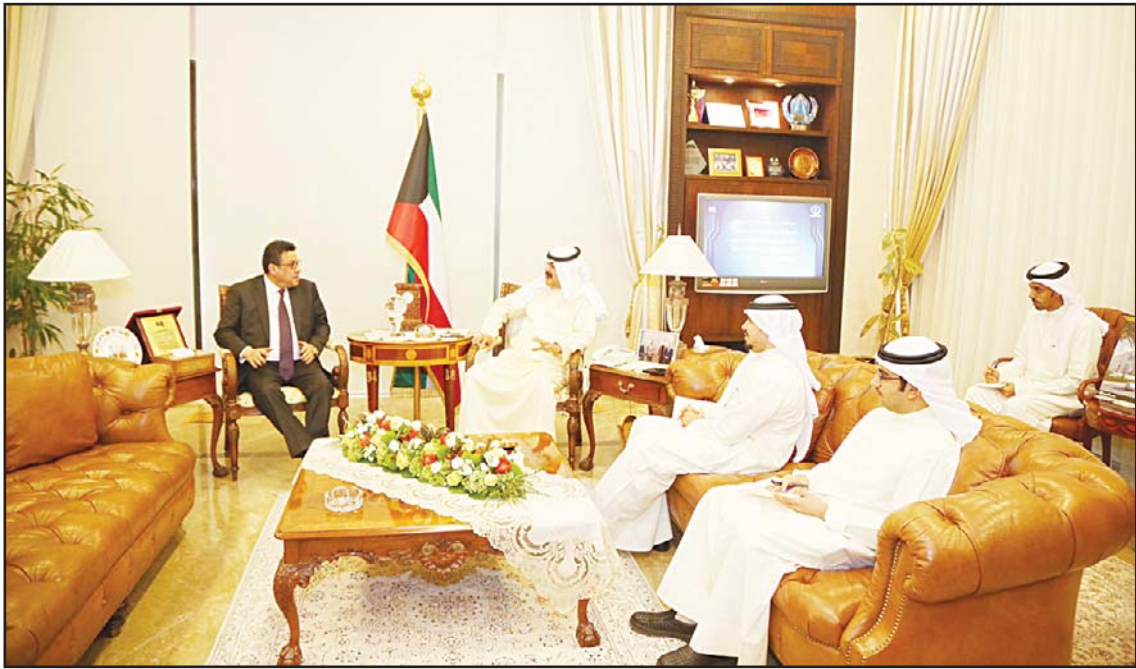
### Enrol

On the other hand, MP Askar Al-Enizi has called on the Ministry of Education to allow the children of Bedoun military personnel to enrol in public schools nearest to their area of residence. He argued the ministry’s excuses in the past, such as “high number of students affecting sustainability,” is no longer true nowadays.

In a press statement, the MP expressed disappointment over the ministry’s decision to allow the children of Bedoun military personnel to enrol only in schools in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Ahmadi governorates despite the distance from their houses. He added these students cannot enrol in schools situated in Jahra, Farwaniya and Capital governorates as per the decision of the ministry.

The MP asked the minister of education to be impartial in taking decisions regarding this issue and prepare for the upcoming school year by paying way for these students to be accepted in schools near their houses. He added the decision has been in effect for a long time and leaving everything as it is raises question marks over the intent.





KUNA photo  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khalid Al-Jarallah received in his office Thursday the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Tariq Al-Qouni to discuss issues of mutual concern covering regional developments and current international affairs. Deputy Foreign Minister for Affairs at the Office of the Deputy Foreign Minister Counselor Talal Al-Shatti was present at the meeting.

# Shrimp-fishing to begin Aug 1, end Jan 31, 2019

Stick to rules: PAAAFR



Al-Anba pictures  
Officials from Kuwait Municipality and security agencies embarked on a campaign at Sulaibiya area and demolished illegal structures built by individuals and companies through which they encroached upon government property covering millions of meters without valid license, reports Al-Anba daily. Jahra Municipality officials from the Safety Department and Emergency Team coordinated with security operatives from Sulaibiya Police Station to implement the campaign in the early hours of Monday and discovered a single company occupying almost one million square/meters of space without valid license.

Abdulnasser Al-Aslami  
Al-Seyassah Staffs

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), the General Department of Coast Guard, and Kuwait Fishermen Union announced that the season of shrimp fishing in the international waters will begin August 1 until Jan 31, 2019.**

They added the ban on shrimp fishing will officially start on February 1, 2019 and continue throughout July 31, 2019. At a joint press conference, the sectors called on fishermen to abide by the executive decree issued by PAAAFR in that concern, stressing that violators will face the rigors of law and penalties, including fines.

Deputy Director of Fish Resources at PAAAFR Marzouq Al-Harbi is optimistic that fishermen and the general public will abide by fishing regulations in the international waters.

In this context, acting Director of Marine Formations Sector at the General Department of Coast Guard Colonel Tariq Al-Wazeeq also said Coast Guard officers will closely monitor the location to enforce fishing regulations.

## Society

Head of Kuwait Fishermen Society Zaher Al-Souyan also said the society has received a letter from PAAAFR along with the approval of fishing vessels to resume shrimp fishing in the international waters. He stressed that individuals fulfilling relevant conditions can get around the Kuwaiti territorial waters after having their passports stamped by concerned authorities at Umm Al-Maradem Port and Doha Port.

Meanwhile, a report issued by the General Statistics Department revealed that about 2,232,805 kilograms of fish were consumed in Kuwait during the first quarter of 2018, reports Al-Qabas daily.

As per the report, the value of the fish consumed during this period was KD 5,791,322. The production of local fish and imported fish amounted to 461,535 kilograms worth KD 1.181 million, and 1,860,270 kilograms worth KD 4.609 million respectively.

Jahra police found a citizen's car which was stolen by an unidentified person who fired at three policemen two days ago, reports Al-Anba daily quoting a security source.

The source disclosed police located the stolen vehicle through GPS because the mobile phone of the owner was inside.

The source said the person, who escaped after firing at police, is believed to be a Bedoun wanted by law for evading a 10-year jail term, adding he was arrested last year for the possession of an unlicensed firearm.

# DIWANIYA ديوانية

A DIGEST OF PUBLIC OPINION

'No US-Iran war seen'

## 'Blow hot, blow cold ties'

"SINCE the very beginning of the Islamic Revolution in Iran until today, the cold war between Iran and the United States of America has been hetically persistent," columnist and former MP *Abdalmohsen Yousef Jamal* wrote for *Al-Qabas* daily.

"This war sometimes would escalate and otherwise remain muted, but it has never transformed or developed into a real war.

"From the time the revolution erupted until today, Iran has been ruled by seven consecutive presidents. Some of them were classified as reformists while others were conservatives. The same is applicable to the United States of America. This country has been ruled by the same number of presidents; some of who belong to the Democratic Party and others to the Republican Party.

"Even though the diplomatic relations between Tehran and Washington were severed since the outset of the Iranian Revolution, Switzerland is currently taking care of the American interests in Iran, and Algeria is taking care of the Iranian interests in America.

"Despite the existence of political boycott between the two parties and the upcoming American economic sanctions to be imposed on Iran, nothing prevented the two countries from cooperating in dealing with certain regional issues for the sake of serving their mutual interests.

"For example, during the American war on Afghanistan, Iran provided necessary facilities to the American air force to strike Afghanistan via the Iranian airspace. This is because the mutual interests of both Tehran and Washington had entailed the downfall of the then regime of Taleban Movement in Afghanistan which was a mutual foe for both parties.

"The same was also applicable in the liberation of the State of Kuwait as well as the liberation of Iraq from the Saddam Hussain regime which had perpetrated a war on Iran for a period of eight years.

"Despite the wars in the region including those currently taking place in Syria, Libya and Yemen, as well as the contradiction between the American and Iranian attitudes in dealing with these wars, their mutual interests had pushed them to hold necessary negotiations concerning the Iranian nuclear dossier in which great countries around the world had participated, and historical outcomes over this dossier were reached.

"The outset of President Donald Trump's reign had witnessed an escalation that amalgamated with a tone of cold war against Iran. Irrespective of the current use of the language of exchanging threats between Tehran and Washington, it is needless to say that such a threat will not develop into "a direct war" between the two parties because the wide common interests in the realm of politics between them will prevent the eruption of such a war.

"Also, both the European Union and Russia will play the mediator role between Tehran and Washington for bringing the conflict between the two parties to an end. The president will ultimately be reluctant to abide by the realistic and pragmatic vision in this regard, which will result in him shunning his idea of imposing "a universal" on Iran. The European will be currently striving to impede his firm policy that is mostly in line with the Israeli desire.

"In this regard, Europe is in agreement with Russia and China over the validity of the nuclear agreement that had concluded between Iran and G5+1. This agreement was transformed into an international reality, and its violation will be against the interest of global peace.

"Not just that, the Iranian lobby in the American Congress actually succeeded in persuading the Congress to enact a law for preventing the American president from waging airstrikes on Iran without consulting with the Congress (This happened even though the American president constitutionally enjoys wide power in his country).

"The enactment of such a law can be deemed as the first-of-its-kind in the American Republican system. Based on this system, the American president reserves the right to be involved in a war against any country that will last for 60 days without taking the permission of the Congress.

"Apart from the above, pressures will be imposed by three million Americans for an Iranian extraction. Half of them were born in the United States of America, and many of them are currently working in American research centers, while some others are working in American universities and political departments.

"The United Nations and other international organizations are currently advocating a peaceful dialogue between Tehran and Washington. This means the diatribe of Trump administration will continue, but in the framework of the "cold war" just for meeting the satisfaction of the Israeli lobby. However, this situation will not develop into a war of severe consequences, particularly since we know that current administration is Republican, and the American Republican administrations have had previous experiences with Iran."

## Also:

"Despite the killing calmness currently distinguishing the internal situations in the State of Kuwait and the trend of people staying inside their homes to avoid the extremely hot climate, the uproar caused by the weapons around us had kept us in a state of permanent upset and fear even though the latter may be not realistic," columnist, Professor in the College of Technological Studies at Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), Deputy Chairman of Islamic Heritage Revival Society and Chairman of Ibn Khaldoun Center for Political Studies *Dr Wael Al-Hasawi* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"Referring to the American President Donald Trump's threats to prevent Iran from exporting its oil and the resumption of the American sanctions on Iran from November 2018, these threats had strongly provoked Iran to such an extent that it had also started threatening that it will not stay silent concerning the American besiege.

"Iran had threatened to close down Hormuz Strait in order to prevent all the countries in the region from exporting their oils via the marine passageway if America implements its threats.

"The Iranian President Hassan Rouhani threatened the American President Donald Trump by saying, "Don't play with the lion's tail because you will regret it eternally."

"We don't know what will happen to anyone who may play with the tail of the lion, but President Trump was not satisfied about this comic chapter. He immediately responded, telling President Rouhani, "Never ever threaten the United States again or you will suffer consequences the likes of which few throughout history has ever suffered before".

"We do not know which countries President Trump was referring to in his response and we know nothing about their fate.

"The Iranian fears towards President Trump are true which was reacted by punishing its important ally Iraq, as Iran refrained from supplying South Iraq with electricity. Iran, through such an action, is apparently saying, "If I am not allowed to sell my oil, then my friends will also suffer with me". We know that Iranian action in this aspect had kept South Iraq without electricity during the worst season of the year when temperatures exceed 50 degree Centigrade. This has added to the burden of the people who are already suffering from water shortage, poor services and governmental corruption."

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"The vision of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on transforming the State of Kuwait into a financial and economic center has become clear through the mega investment projects with an estimated cost of more than \$450 billion, attractive financial benefits for foreign and domestic investors, and the provision of more than a quarter million jobs," columnist *Dr Faisal Al-Sharifi* wrote for *Al-Jarida* daily.

"These figures necessitate a serious pause in line with the 2035 development plan, especially with regard to the preparation of manpower to create the right conditions for directing Kuwaiti youths to these job opportunities. This can be done either through making them qualified to enter the world of small enterprises or preparing them to enter the labor market once the implementation of these projects begins.

"First Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah mentioned important points during the Kuwait Investment Forum. We should reflect on these points, mainly the need to change the educational system and habits of the community. Unless we improve our performance and prepare ourselves for 2035, we will lose a lot. We will be less respected by the world, he added.

"If the government is serious about implementing its 2035 vision, the role of the Supreme Education Council in shaping the general policies of educational institutions must be activated. This is in addition to linking the actual manpower need of the labor market with the outputs of Kuwait University and private universities."

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"Despite the popular calls for years concerning restoration of the gravity of the Kuwaiti Constitution and activation of suspended articles, the government still continues with its attitude in terms of minimizing public and personal freedoms. This is in violation of the Kuwaiti Constitution," *Waleed Al-Rujaib* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"The government is showing this attitude by making laws that lead to restricting freedoms of the society and narrowing the right for expressing opinions freely. Recently, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor dissolved the Board of Directors of the Liberal Freedom Society under the pressures imposed by some MPs who are supposed to be honest defenders of freedoms.

"This resulted from the 'one-man one-vote' electoral system which produced MPs who think their duty is to practice favoritism (wasta) and provide personal services. Some of them are subject to corruption suspicions.

"NGOs and cooperative societies played an important role during the period of the Iraqi invasion. They supported and organized civilian resistance to the occupation. Nevertheless, those societies have been turned into hollow images since the liberation of Kuwait. The guardianship of the government and the laws created for this reason led to civil society organizations ending up inactive and broken.

"Public benefit societies provided intellectuals and thinkers to the Kuwaiti society, and their distinguished fingerprints are evident in the national cultural movement. However, the enemies of democracy have turned swords at them to the extent that every civil society is exposed to the threat of dissolution just like the way the Independence Club was dissolved in 1976.

"Only civil society organizations with Islamic background are safe. They reproduce and enjoy the care of the government. The government did not succeed in fighting corruption prevalent inside these societies. On the other hand, the government has been flexing its muscles at the civil society organizations that previously led the Kuwaiti society to lead compared to other countries in the region.

"The policy of guardianship adopted by the government is not in line with the objectives intended by the founding fathers when they wrote the Kuwaiti Constitution and turned Kuwait into a civil state. It allowed a number of MPs to toughen the restraining chains placed on citizens instead of representing them and defending their rights.

"How can we expect fruits of reform when people are bound and restricted while the corrupt are free?"

□ □ □

"In Kuwait there is no voice louder than the voice of fraud. The cancer of fraud is not new but is now hereditary. All the news concerning fake certificates, which are doing rounds on social media and in the public domain both at political and social level, are old. However, there certainly is a secret behind the publicity that this issue is getting right now," *Mohammad Saleh Al-Sabri* wrote for *Al-Rai* daily.

"We have been discussing about fake certificates for years; in fact, consecutive governments have repeatedly acknowledged their existence but failed dismally in finding solutions. The problem is not only restricted to fake certificates alone, but it also covers many aspects in our lives which have been hit hard by the cancer of fraud.

"It is very easy to get Kuwaiti nationality; and within a month or two, you can get a high school diploma from some neighboring countries fraudulently without sitting for even one test. You can continue in the same course to get a university degree in 12 or 18 months. Sometimes, certificates can be bought from East Asian and some Arab countries. They may be in engineering, accounting or law fields, based on your choice! Once you get your hands on that fake certificate, it can easily be certified for you, with the help of political pressures. You can guarantee yourself in getting employed in the best and most important jobs with handsome salary and financial benefits. You need not worry after that, as you will easily get promoted. That is fraud — a cancer spreading fast in our country.

"However, the dangers of fraud are written on the walls for everybody to see. After one gets a job fraudulently and money starts pouring in, other doors greater than the doors of fraud automatically open. They take state properties at symbolic rent values and even go further in taking industrial lands without having any connection to that industry. You can earn large profits without exerting any effort such as by just re-leasing it out. Using fraud, you can even engage in trafficking human beings and supplying them to the market as well as goods to ministries. You can go for treatment abroad. You get disability allowance from Ministry of Social Affairs. Fraud makes everything possible in Kuwait."

— Compiled by Zaki Taleb

## News in Brief

**MP move praised:** General Customs Administration has commended MP Mubarak Al-Hajraf for submitting a proposal to move the Land Customs Administration from Sulaibiya to another location far from the residential area while constructing customs cities at the land borders in Abdali, Salmi and Nuwaiseeb, adding the proposal conforms to the desire of His Highness the Amir to convert Kuwait into a financial and trade hub, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

To this end, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Adel Al-Khorafi has formed a team of officials at the ministry to follow up the proposals submitted by lawmakers in that regard and approved by concerned parliamentary committees and government authorities.

The ministry also followed the seventeenth report of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee as regards the proposal submitted by MP Al-Hajraf and approved by the concerned committee and government authority.

**'Ban Israeli device':** Attorney Mohammad Al-Enezi, a citizen, has submitted a complaint to the Attorney General, demanding for stopping the use of 'celebrity' device by the Criminal Evidence Department to detect crimes on Twitter and WhatsApp, reports Al-Qabas daily.

The complainant said this device is prohibited in Kuwait because it is an Israeli product. He called for confiscation of the device, indicating that any official responsible for the import, possession or use of the device must be referred to the competent authorities for punishment according to Article Six of law number 21/1964 on boycotting Israel.

**Driving ambulance:** Police are questioning a Kuwaiti man, in his 50s, for driving an ambulance parked with the ignition on in front of Jahra Hospital, reports Al-Anba daily.

## Boat sinks

### Girl not found

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Search is ongoing for the second consecutive day for a missing Kuwaiti girl who was with six other Kuwaiti citizens in a boat that sank while on a tour between Failaka Island and Salmiya, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Security sources clarified that the boat which sank to the bottom of the sea has not been found, revealing that the missing girl was trapped inside the boat when it sank two days ago. Even though officers from the Coast Guard Department had managed to rescue six of the citizens who were on-board the boat, they were unable to find the boat and the missing girl.

Securitymen and firefighters as well as marine rescue officers have been exerting tremendous efforts to search for the boat and figure out if the missing girl is inside the boat.

**Faulty signal:** Following an article published in the daily on June 11 about a signal intersection in Salmiya where one of the signals is always green, Public Relations and Security Media Department of Ministry of Interior revealed that the Traffic Engineering Sector of the ministry has made changes to the back system of the traffic signal on Salem Al-Mubarak Street in Salmiya area to fix the problem, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The citizen denied that he intended to steal the ambulance, saying he was supposed to take his son who was in the hospital. However, he saw his son being taken by police, so he had no option but to drive the ambulance to follow the police vehicle until it stopped at Naem Police Station where he surrendered.



Guinea envoy suggests its govt to stop sending Guinean domestics to Kuwait

Employers can file absconding case through ‘As’hal’ portal: PAM

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) disclosed that the Labor Relations Department has adopted an online method for filing absconding reports through the “As’hal” (Easy) portal for companies and institutions that are subscribed to the service, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources.

They said companies can also enquire online about the results of the complaints and absconding cases they filed, adding that employees can register complaints against their companies through the SMS service.

The sources explained that the authority has reduced the period of transfer of absconding notices to

Ministry of Interior from 90 days to 60 days in accordance with the mechanism to ensure the integrity of the notice from malice or abuse.

Ambassador of Guinea to Kuwait HE Mamady Traoré revealed that he has suggested to the Ministry of Security and Social Protection in his country to suspend sending Guinean domestic workers to Kuwait until

completion of procedures with the embassy to organize and regulate their travel and employment in Kuwait, reports Al-Qabas daily.

During an interview with the Guinea News, Ambassador Traoré said the ambassadors of Benin, Senegal and Togo have taken a series of measures with their governments in this aspect which have reduced the

problems faced by members of their communities in Kuwait.

The ambassador’s remarks came after a Guinean domestic worker Kady Sago Bah last week sustained multiple injuries and fractures all over her body after she jumped from the fourth floor of a building to escape from her employer.

According to the ambassador, the

victim told him, when he visited her in the hospital, that she had no choice but to jump because she was deprived of food.

He indicated that there are about 20 other Guinean domestic workers who are facing problems in Kuwait, and the embassy is currently working on finalizing procedures for their repatriation.



KUNA photos  
Kuwait Consul General Dr Omar Al-Kandari with Erbil Governor Nawzad Hadi Mawlood.

Kuwaiti consul general visits Ebril

Kuwait sends generators, fuel to support energy needs of Basra

BAGHDAD, July 26, (KUNA): Iraqi Border Port Commission announced on Thursday the arrival of electric generators sent by Kuwait to support the energy needs of Basra governorate. “Seventeen large electric generators presented by Kuwait had arrived to the Iraqi borders on July 24, and all generators completed their entrance procedures to Al-Basra,” said head of Border Port Commission Kadhem Al-Iqabi. Kuwait has sent those generators and a large amount of fuel on the orders of His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber AL-Sabah to decrease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Consul General in Erbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari visited

Thursday Erbil governorate building, which was attacked by terrorists few days ago. “The goal of the visit is to check on the Governor and employees’ safety after the attack,” the Consul told KUNA. Al-Kandari praised the security forces for countering the terrorist “condemned” attack. For his part, Erbil Governor Nawzad Hadi Mawlood, in a statement to KUNA, welcomed the visit, assuring Kuwait’s role in helping alleviate the suffering of refugees in Kurdistan region. Erbil governorate building was attacked by armed men last Monday, where security forces were able to stop the attack and kill the gunmen after a clash that lasted for hours.

Al-Mehanna to release single titled Dawa’atkom

Well-known Kuwaiti singer to take part in operetta Sun of Civilizations

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Well-known Kuwaiti singer Nabeel Shuail will participate in the unique and great operetta entitled, “Sun of Civilizations,” on the occasion of the anniversary of the Throne celebration – commemoration of the King’s ascension to the throne, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

Other performers include Jordanian singer Diana Karzon and Ahmad Al-Jumairi from Bahrain.

The operetta is written and produced by Mosa’ab Al-Anzi, composed by Radwan Al-Dairi, distributed by Tunisian Maestro Essam Al-Sharaiyati and directed by Faisal Al-Halaimi.

Singer Osama Al-Mehanna has announced his intention to release a new



Nabeeli Shuail

single entitled, “Dawa’atkom” (Pray for Me), reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Mehanna also composed the melody while Eyad Ibrahim wrote the lyrics of the song which will be recorded in Kuwait.

Kuwaiti comedian Tariq Al-Ali has posted a video clip on Twitter in response to those who dragged his name into the fake certificates issue, reports Al-Anba daily.

Commenting on the video, Kuwaiti writer Fajr Al-Saeid urged the comedian to perform in a play tackling the issue.

Al-Ali welcomed the idea on the condition that Al-Fajr will write the script for the play.

The daily telephoned Al-Ali to verify the information, during which he expressed happiness and pride over the chance to work with Al-Fajr, who expressed the same feelings stating it is an honor to collaborate with Al-Ali.

News in Brief

**MoE cancels termination order:** Ministry of Education, on humanitarian grounds, has canceled the decision to terminate the services of a number of expatriate teachers, reports Al-Anba daily.

In a letter, Assistant Undersecretary for Administration Affairs Fahad Al-Ghais asked Assistant Undersecretary for Public Education Affairs Fatima Al-Kandari to inform the concerned teachers.

Along with his letter, Al-Ghais sent a list with the names of the teachers who have been excluded from the decision related to termination of service, and gave reasons why each one of them should not be terminated.

Syrian teachers have been included in the list due to the circumstances of their country, those with children in the 11th grade and two cases getting

treatment from a serious ailment.

**FM receives envoy:** Acting Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al-Sabah Tuesday received the Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Kuwait HE Mark Grey Marongwe on the occasion of the end of his mission in Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah praised Ambassador Marongwe for the efforts he exerted during his tenure in the country as well as his contributions to enhance the bilateral ties between Zimbabwe and Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Affairs Minister in the Office of the Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and a number of officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: The ministries of Awqaf and Interior will meet soon to lay down a comprehensive security plan for the Eid Al-Adha prayers, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the Interior Ministry will assign male and female security forces in 78 worship places, adding that five schools in each governorate will be allocated as Eid prayer venues.

Sources said the Imams and preachers will be instructed to be vigilant and refrain from talking about certain topics like violence, extremism, sedition and rumors especially those spread on social media.

Meanwhile, visitors at the main building of the Ministry of Health were surprised when electricity was cut off for more than one hour recently, reports Al-Qabas daily quoting sources.

Sources disclosed the power disruption happened at 12:00 noon, indicating that technicians rushed to the location after receiving information on the power outage. Sources added it took more than one hour for the technicians to fix the problem.

Further more, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr Fahad Al-Affasi has designated Director of Pilgrims Affairs Office Mohammad Nasser Al-Mutairi as Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Coordination and Foreign Relations, in addition to his current functions, reports Al-Rai daily.

The minister took this decision when the tenure of Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Development Affairs Waleed Al-Ammar as Assistant Undersecretary for Technical Coordination ended recently.

In another development, Ministry of Education Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athari recently issued a decision concerning members of ministerial committees, reports Al-Rai daily.

Al-Athari ordered exclusion of one member each from the committee tasked to raise public awareness on obesity, and the committee in charge of evaluating the achievements of primary and kindergarten students; while a junior translator in Educational Research Department joined the Curricula Committee.

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Ministry of Commerce and Industry has disclosed that some companies have requested Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies to approve the increase of their commodities’ prices on the union’s website, reports Al-Rai daily.

The ministry said this in its response to a parliamentary question submitted by MP Khalil Abdullah about requests made by companies for increasing the prices by five to ten percent.

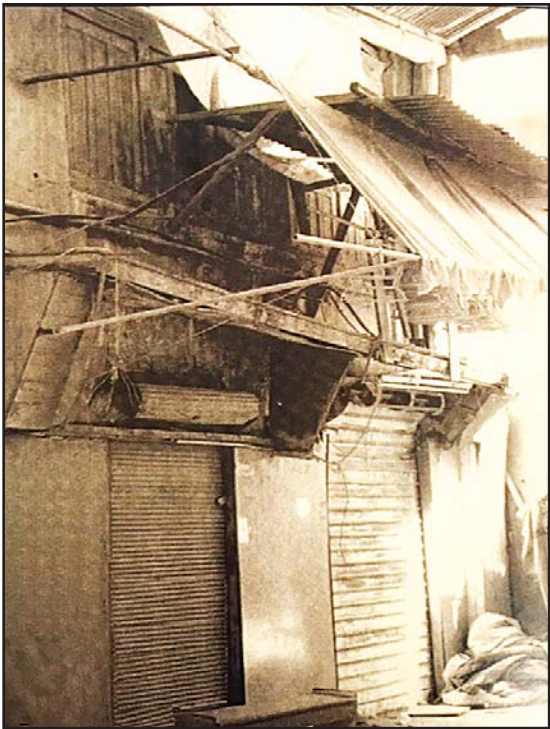
It revealed that one of these requests was approved either before or after the month of Ramadan, indicating that it assigned a committee to coordinate with the cooperative societies in all governorates and receive weekly reports from the cooperative societies with necessary details including the prices of commodities, as well as hold meetings with the managers of the cooperative societies.

The ministry indicated about teams of inspectors whose task is to visit cooperative societies and ascertain if they are committed to the specified prices, adding that the members of the teams are authorized to carry out judiciary arrests.

It revealed that the committee responsible for fixing prices of commodities includes representatives of Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor as members.



Abulelah Al-Qenai



Dawa khana in 1919



Some medicines on display



KUNA photos

‘Dawa khana’ ... first pharmacy in Kuwait

Kuwait’s first pharmacy or ‘Dawa khana’ as Kuwaitis used to call it, was opened in 1919 by Abulelah Al-Qenai.

‘Dawa khana’, fully operated by Al-Qenai back then, provided full medical services including preparing different medicines, treating regular diseases and vaccinations against epidemics that would spread every now and then.

In his book titled ‘Dawa khana’, published by the Center For Research and Studies On Kuwait in 2005, Dr Khaled Al-Jarallah said Abdulelah’s father Abdullah Al-Qenai was a prominent figure in the Kuwaiti society.

He noted that Abdulelah learned English language, literature, religion, science and document pre-

serving from his father. Abdullah Al-Qenai used to work for the British political commission in Kuwait in 1904 and was honored by an award for his efforts. This had given Abdulelah the chance to work as an assistant doctor in the commission’s clinic in 1909, Al-Jarallah said.

He kept working at the clinic until late 1918 when he decided to benefit from the knowledge and skills he had gained to work on his own.

In 1919, Al-Qenai travelled to Bombay, India to learn about different medicines and medical equipment. He then went to merchant Hussein bin Essa who was living in India to ship all drugs and equipment needed for his pharmacy in Kuwait.

Al-Jarallah said that ‘Dawa kha-

na’, located in the middle of the souk under the booth of Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah, served people throughout the 20s and 30s era.

From there on, Al-Qenai showed great skills in treating diseases in different fields including the digestive system, urinary tract, lungs, dermatology and ophthalmology. He also treated wounds, teeth aches and performed simple surgeries.

Moreover, Abulelah provided vaccinations against the smallpox disease that was widely spreading in Kuwait and the Gulf region back then.

‘Dawa khana’ gave way to the opening of other pharmacies later on, including the national Islamic pharmacy in 1927 by Abdullatif Al-Duhaim and many others. (KUNA)



# Iraqi envoy hails humanitarian aid provided by Kuwait in various crisis

‘Sincere feelings of brotherhood’

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26, (KUNA):** Ambassador of Iraq to Kuwait Dr Alaa Al-Hashemi Wednesday hailed the humanitarian, developmental and medical assistance offered by Kuwait to displaced Iraqis in various Iraqi provinces to alleviate their suffering.

Speaking to KUNA following his meeting with the Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Ambassador Al-Hashemi expressed gratitude and appreciation for the great humanitarian work provided by Kuwait to Iraq in various circumstances and crises.

He said Kuwait’s stances depict the sincere feelings of brotherhood and cooperation between the two sisterly countries.

The ambassador affirmed that Kuwait as always is one among the first to offer urgent assistance to displaced people everywhere, noting that the Iraqi government appreciates the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti government to provide developmental, medical and humanitarian assistance to displaced Iraqis in various Iraqi provinces.



Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society DrHilal Al-Sayer meets the Ambassador of Iraq to Kuwait H.E. DrAlaa Al-Hashemi

He revealed that the discussions during the meeting revolved around the role being played by Kuwait Red Crescent Society in the field of providing humanitarian aid in various forms to the Iraqi people, as well as ways to enhance the efforts of the society in the Iraqi arena, stating that he appreciates and admires the work being done by KRCS, which reflect the keenness of the State of Kuwait to extend a helping hand to

its neighbors. Ambassador Al-Hashemi highlighted about the various humanitarian aspects that the society is concerned with locally and internationally, and its relief efforts in many of the affected areas around the world. Meanwhile, Dr Hilal Al-Sayer said KRCS is implementing a number of programs in Iraq based on its humanitarian responsibility, and is working on

achieving the goals of the State of Kuwait, being a Global Humanitarian center, to serve affected people around the world. He affirmed that KRCS will continue providing support to health, medical, relief and developmental projects in Iraq and to displaced Iraqis with the cooperation of humanitarian organizations operating in Iraq, including the project of mobile medical clinics and the establishment of schools.

## Visit subject to availability of Amir: ‘Bong’

Duterte may visit in October to thank Kuwait for ‘acceding’ to his demand

By Virgil Lopez, GMA News

KUWAIT CITY, June 26: President Rodrigo Duterte might visit Kuwait in October in connection with his plan to thank the Gulf state for acceding to his demand for a labor pact ensuring the welfare of migrant Filipino workers, his top aide said on Wednesday, reports GMA News. Special Assistant to the President Christopher “Bong” Go said the visit is subject to the availability of the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Duterte was supposed to visit Kuwait in May but it did not push through due to the diplomatic row triggered by the abuses suffered by overseas Filipino workers in the hands of their employers in the country. Following negotiations, both countries entered into an agreement on the protection and welfare of OFWs, prompting Duterte to lift the total deployment ban

on new hires. Among the key features of the agreement are the provision of food, housing, clothing; the registration in the health insurance system for domestic workers; and the use of cellular phones so that OFWs could communicate with their relatives in the Philippines. The deal also provides that the employer should open a bank account under the domestic worker’s name to allow the reasonable opportunity to remit his or her monthly salary to relatives in the Philippines. In his third State of the Nation Address on Monday, Duterte said the government is continuing to work with host nations to ensure the welfare of Filipinos. He appealed to all host governments “to help us, as true and dependable partners, in this endeavor.” Duterte made the address before a packed Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City with members of the diplomatic community among those in the audience.

‘Contract worth \$180 million’

## Kuwait signs an agreement with SNC-Lavlin for suite of services

HOUSTON, July 26: Kuwait Petroleum Corp. subsidiary Kuwait Integrated Petroleum Industries Co (KIPIC) has let a contract to SNC-Lavalin Group Inc, Montreal, to provide a suite of services related to startup of the grassroots 615,000-b/d Al-Zour integrated refining complex under construction in southern Kuwait, reports oil&gasjournal.com. As part of the contract, SNC-Lavalin will deliver commissioning management support services, as well as preparation and delivery of training, documentation, and competency development consultancy services for the refinery, the service provider said. Specifically, SNC-Lavalin will be responsible for commissioning technical services including master plan, startup program development, risk assessment and management, commissioning management support, operations readiness and assurance, project phase execution activities, as well as training, competency development and assurance, documentation preparation, and development of a knowledge manage-

ment system and e-learning services, software, procedures, and conducting a safe and efficient startup and operations. SNC-Lavalin valued the contract at about \$180 million. In January, KIPIC confirmed that all five packages of the integrated complex are proceeding in line with the original schedule, with all packages due to be completed by yearend 2019 and initial refining units still on track for startup in May 2019 (OGJ Online, Jan 22, 2018). The cornerstone of Kuwait’s Clean Fuels Project to upgrade its refineries to produce clean-burning fuels conforming to Euro 5 standards, the Al-Zour refinery comes as part of KPC’s broader downstream program under its 2030 strategy to enhance growth in its refining and manufacturing sectors, which also includes the upgrade, expansion, and transformation of the 270,000-b/d Mina Abdullah and 466,000-b/d Mina Al Ahmadi refineries into an integrated 800,000 b/d merchant refining complex (OGJ Online, Nov 28, 2017).

## International homeland security specialists bring new innovations to agenda-setting Milipol Qatar 2018



12th edition of the leading homeland security and civil defence event will be the most comprehensive in the show’s history and bringing together thousands of industry professionals and thought leaders

Milipol Qatar, the 12th edition of the leading international exhibition dedicated to homeland security and Civil Defence in the Middle East region 2018, will set the agenda for internal security and public safety with leading international specialists bringing new products and solutions, across a range of industries, to the much-heralded exhibition and conference that will be held from 29-31 October 2018, at Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC). Milipol Qatar 2018 will be held under the patronage of H.H the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and the three-day show has already attracted leading industry players from across the globe who will showcase their latest innovations for safety and security. To date, defence specialists from Qatar, France, Turkey, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Spain Morocco, UK, USA, Russia and Slovenia have confirmed their participation, across industries including public security, defence solutions and equipment, telecom security and technologies, firefighting, radiation detection, emergency equipment, law enforcement products, communications software, airports security systems and more. Organized by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) of the State of Qatar and the French-based Comexposium Security, Milipol Qatar will include several country pavilions – including France,



Italy, Germany, UK and North America – and serves as the link between buyers, purchasing advisors, users, security and safety experts, manufacturers and distributors. The must-attend show is the ideal platform to network and close deals for a better, safer future for all. The exhibition presents increasing opportunities for organizations across the full spectrum of sectors, with links to civil defence and homeland security, to demonstrate how they can contribute towards safety and security for the world’s population. Leading international exhibitors have recognized the opportunities presented by participating at Milipol Qatar 2018 to name few such as Magmid Ltd from Russia, which specializes in developing secure Android devices for a range of industries; Mirion Technologies from

France – providing innovative solutions in radiation protection; and Nutech Company Limited from China – an advanced security & inspection solution and service supplier in the world. “Homeland security and civil defence are crucial pillars of any nation. With growing populations and digital transformation taking hold, countries, governmental entities and private corporations are seeking smarter security solutions to keep their people and organizations safe. Milipol Qatar 2018 is a unique opportunity for security specialists to demonstrate their latest solutions and for decision makers and buyers to secure crucial facetime with current and potential new partners,” said Michael Weatherseed, IT & Security Business Unit Director/Milipol Events Director. “So far we have strong participation as the leading international exhibitors and countries seek dedicated pavilions. We anticipate this will continue, with new products and new features, such as live demonstrations and with the incorporating of the Civil Defence Exhibition and Conference. Milipol Qatar 2018 is a true benchmark of the homeland security and civil defence industry and is a must-attend for all industry professionals.” The addition of live demonstration for the first time to Milipol Qatar, presents

homeland defence pioneers from around the world the opportunity to display their technologies in a controlled environment, giving key decision makers, exhibitors, visitors and buyers the opportunity to witness new products and innovations in action. As part of its continuous evolution to provide the best experience for exhibitors, visitors, buyers and industry professionals, Milipol Qatar 2018 has incorporated the Civil Defence Exhibition and Conference. The collaboration of the two shows has resulted in the region’s leading Homeland Security and Civil defence event, bringing together key global civil defence players, for a series of focused conference sessions and agenda-setting panel discussions on the latest and emerging civil defence trends and best practices. Milipol Qatar 2018 is now open for registration for exhibitors, visitors and press. Milipol Qatar 2018 is a trade-only event, open exclusively to defence and security industry specialists and professionals. The exhibition is open from 9.30am – 5.00pm on Monday, 29 and Tuesday, 30 October, and from 9.30am – 4pm on Wednesday, 31 October. For more information on how to register as an exhibitor please visit <https://event.milipolqatar.com/2018/> or visitor: <https://badge.milipolqatar.com/home.html>.



## Impact on

Continued from Page 1

halted operations to give the United Nations a chance to resolve the situation in Hodeidah and the wider conflict which has killed more than 10,000 people. “The only way forward is to get Hodeidah. What we are planning to do is give diplomacy every possible chance to secure that,” Anwar Gargash, the UAE’s minister of state for foreign affairs, said in London. The United Nations fears that cutting off Hodeidah may trigger a famine in the impoverished country where around 8.4 million people are believed to be on the verge of starvation and thousands are struggling with diseases such as cholera and diphtheria. The United Nations says the Houthis have offered to hand over management of the port to the world body, but the Saudi-led coalition says that the Houthis must quit the western coast. One of the coalition’s main justifications for intervening in Yemen is to protect shipping routes such as the Red Sea. It has said it foiled previous attacks there in April and May. The Bab al-Mandeb strait is only 18 miles (28.97 kms) wide, making hundreds of ships potentially an easy target. The US Energy Information Administration said an estimated 4.8 million bpd of crude oil and products flowed through it in 2016. Falih’s statement said the two Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) after Yemeni rebel attacks could provoke an international intervention in Yemen’s “forgotten” war, analysts say. The world’s top oil exporter on Wednesday suspended all oil shipments through the Bab al-Mandab strait after accusing Iran-aligned Houthis of having attacked two giant tankers carrying four million barrels of crude. “All oil shipments through Bab al-Mandab strait have been suspended temporarily until ... maritime transit through the area is safe,” Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih announced. One of the vessels sustained only minor damage in Wednesday’s attack and there were no casualties, the Saudi national oil company Aramco said, while the Houthis said they targeted a Saudi warship. The escalation of tensions in the strategic region could encourage outside powers to intervene, said Ellen Wald, author of the book “Saudi Inc.”. “The Red Sea is a very important shipping lane. If there is a major disruption, European powers, Egypt and the United States would all have reason to intervene,” she wrote in Forbes magazine. “An international intervention against the Houthis may be just what Saudi Arabia wants.” Global oil prices rose slightly after the incident but industry experts said the increase was likely to be minimal and short-lived. The incident, however, draws the attention of the international community to the dangers of spillover from Yemen’s festering three-year-old war. The Bab al-Mandab connects the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea and is a narrow, strategic navigation lane for oil and international trade. “The Saudi halt will cause prices to increase slightly and for a limited period,” Kuwaiti oil expert Kamel Al-Harami said. “It will cause a 15-day delay in oil shipments as they have to re-route through south of the African continent,” Harami told AFP. The main impact of the incident appears to be military, according to Harami. “It could be a reason for increased naval presence for many countries, mainly the United States and Russia, thus resulting in an escalation of tensions,” he said. The suspension comes as Saudi Arabia seeks to ramp up oil production under pressure from the United States. Already there are concerns over the implication of US-Iran tensions on oil markets.

## Forgotten war

Saudi Arabia’s halt to oil shipments through a strategic waterway after Yemeni rebel attacks could provoke an international intervention in Yemen’s “forgotten” war, analysts say. The world’s top oil exporter on Wednesday suspended all oil shipments through the Bab al-Mandab strait after accusing Iran-aligned Houthis of having attacked two giant tankers carrying four million barrels of crude. “All oil shipments through Bab al-Mandab strait have been suspended temporarily until ... maritime transit through the area is safe,” Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih announced. One of the vessels sustained only minor damage in Wednesday’s attack and there were no casualties, the Saudi national oil company Aramco said, while the Houthis said they targeted a Saudi warship. The escalation of tensions in the strategic region could encourage outside powers to intervene, said Ellen Wald, author of the book “Saudi Inc.”. “The Red Sea is a very important shipping lane. If there is a major disruption, European powers, Egypt and the United States would all have reason to intervene,” she wrote in Forbes magazine. “An international intervention against the Houthis may be just what Saudi Arabia wants.” Global oil prices rose slightly after the incident but industry experts said the increase was likely to be minimal and short-lived. The incident, however, draws the attention of the international community to the dangers of spillover from Yemen’s festering three-year-old war. The Bab al-Mandab connects the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea and is a narrow, strategic navigation lane for oil and international trade. “The Saudi halt will cause prices to increase slightly and for a limited period,” Kuwaiti oil expert Kamel Al-Harami said. “It will cause a 15-day delay in oil shipments as they have to re-route through south of the African continent,” Harami told AFP. The main impact of the incident appears to be military, according to Harami. “It could be a reason for increased naval presence for many countries, mainly the United States and Russia, thus resulting in an escalation of tensions,” he said. The suspension comes as Saudi Arabia seeks to ramp up oil production under pressure from the United States. Already there are concerns over the implication of US-Iran tensions on oil markets.



Other Voices

‘Quit envy’

Success of George Soros

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Some people describe businessman and billionaire George Soros as the man of Israeli money and the Jewish financial machine. They also hurled other accusations at him. None of them reaches the level of accusation, but this is only in the eyes of our people.

The rest of the seven billion people in the world have a different view. Once a person is a Jew, this automatically makes him bad while being unaware of the Jews’ deeds generally in science, medicine and human well-being especially in the last 150 years, at least.

The problem of many of us is that once they hear a Jewish word, various signs of suspicion, doubt, stories and theories of conspiracy fill their hearts and minds as if the Jews are a global scourge which must be uprooted. This matter is not like that and it should not be viewed with such naivety.

George Soros was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930. He migrated to Britain in 1947 after surviving the Holocaust, studied and graduated from the London School of Economics. He later decided to migrate to America.



Al-Sarraf

Soros is considered one of the world’s best businessmen, the largest currency trader, a great philanthropist and one of the world’s 30 richest people.

The success of George Soros began in the early 1970s when he founded the Quantum Fund managing \$12 million which increased to tens of billions of dollars within 40 years.

George Soros is known as the man who broke the Bank of England in 1992 when he speculated \$10 billion based on the belief that the bank would be forced to reduce the value of the sterling pound. He gained a lot from the speculation.

In 2011, Soros founded the Open Society Foundations and donated \$11 billion of his own funds to fight poverty, increase transparency in government work, protect minorities and human rights around the world, and fund scholarships. The funds and efforts of Soros also played a vital role in liberating Eastern European countries from communism.

Last October, Soros donated \$18 billion – the largest in history, making the fund second in the world after the Melinda and Bill Gates Charity Fund.

If Soros is a Zionist, as some described him to be, he would have donated all his money to Israel and enjoyed rest and relaxation as he is on the verge of the 90th year.

O evil people, stop your envy.

□ □ □

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Though most bats feed on insects, some prefer fruits (Abdullah Almuhareb – KUNA)

Mol officer jailed, 20 women probed in fake degrees saga

Thai cabbie returns Kuwaiti visitor’s cash, docus

By Munaif Nayef  
Al-Seyassah Staff and  
Agencies

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Amid the recent fake certificates scandal over which government has been investigating 50 suspects with the expectation of uncovering hundreds more of fake and bogus certificates, the Criminal Court has sentenced a First Sergeant attached to the Ministry of Interior to five years in prison and sacked him from the job and ordered a refund of KD 233,000 with double the sum in fine for forging a secondary school certificate from Bahrain.

This indicates the culprits of fake certificate are liable to a similar judgment if the verdict is upheld at the two upper courts- Court of Appeal and Court of Cassation.

Meanwhile, a legal source disclosed the convicted Sergeant was charged for using the certificate as an official document with stamp of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain on it for attestation. He said the culprit exploited good intention of the concerned staff to get the certificate attested at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, because he forged information with reference to Kuwaiti Embassy in Bahrain.

He was also accused of obtaining the ‘amount to be refunded’ wrongly. This means that those caught with fake university degrees are liable to more severe penalties with fines running into millions, especially if they occupy senior official positions as reported few days ago.

20 women probed: The fake certificates case witnessed a new development recently with the referral of 20 female citizens to the Public Prosecution for obtaining such certificates — most of them are working in the legal field, reports Al-Rai daily.

Reliable sources disclosed a lawyer and a manager of a company were also referred to the prosecution for forging certificates, indicating that investigations may take a year because of the lengthy procedures and the need for further searches and interrogation, as well as coordination between relevant authorities in Kuwait and abroad.

Sources said the security authorities in Cairo arrested an Egyptian working in the Kuwaiti Cultural Office, considering him the mastermind of falsifying certificates and interrogation is expected to unveil serious information on the case of fake certificates sold to Kuwaitis.

On the other hand, security sources told Annahar daily that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in the Interior Ministry recently summoned 36 people to interrogate them



Top and above: Damage caused by the fire in a flat in Hawally.

KFSD photos

Teen girl critical in fire mishap

An 18-year-old Arab girl is in serious health condition due to severe smoke inhalation after fire broke out in a flat in Hawally area.

In a press statement issued by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), the Public Relations and Media Department explained that the Control Room of KFSD, after receiving information about a flat on fire, dispatched firefighters to the location along with

paramedics and securitymen. They discovered that a girl was trapped in the burning flat on the fifth floor of a residential building in Hawally area.

Firefighters immediately rescued her and referred her to paramedics who rushed her to Mubarak Hospital where she has been admitted in the Intensive Care Unit in critical condition.

Firefighters evacuated all the

tenants from the building, especially since heavy smoke had spread through many flats. They then extinguished the fire before it spread further.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the fire broke out in the victim’s father’s room. Further investigations are ongoing to determine the cause of the fire.

High-ranking officials were present at the location.

said in a video clip with the young Kuwaiti.

Liquor peddlers held: Two Asians were arrested for trading in local alcohol, reports Al-Anba daily.

The two Asians were in a car which stopped suddenly at a roundabout in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. When police approached the car to check, they noticed the confused demeanor of the two Asians.

The officers then inspected the car thoroughly, resulting in the discovery of 33 bottles of local alcohol under the front seats.

A case was registered and the suspects were referred to Talha Deportation Center



A large quantity of cigarette cartons were seized at the border.

Mol photo

900 cartons of cigarettes seized

By Munaif Nayef  
Al-Seyassah Staff

Four individuals were arrested at Nuwaiseeb border checkpoint for attempting to smuggle 900 cartons of cigarette packs out of the country.

According to sources, Customs officers at the border checkpoint inspected a vehicle with four occupants and found a huge number of cartons of cigarette packs hidden in various parts of the vehicle. The four suspects were arrested

ed and referred with the confiscated cigarette packs to the concerned authorities for necessary legal action.

Meanwhile, Customs officers at Nuwaiseeb border foiled the attempt of a Saudi man to smuggle 30 cartons of cigarettes to his country, reports Annahar daily.

The cartons were hidden in a secret compartment in the door of the car. The contraband was confiscated and the Saudi was referred to the relevant security department.

News in Brief

Ice cream vendor dies: An Egyptian ice cream vendor died when a vehicle collided with another on Nuwaiseeb Road and then crashed into his wagon, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, when the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior received information about the accident, securitymen rushed to the location with paramedics and found the victim. They checked him and realized he had succumbed to serious injuries. The corpse was referred to the Forensics Department. A case was registered.

2 held with drugs: Two Kuwaiti citizens were arrested in possession of hashish, says Al-Seyassah.

According to security sources, a Kuwaiti citizen informed security authorities that his son told him he was lost in the sea. Investigations by the security authorities revealed that he was arrested along with another citizen for possessing 20 kgs of hashish by officers from the Coast Guard Department.

Hoax terror call: A distress call concerning the presence of terrorists inside a mosque in Umm Al-Haiman turned out to be false, as the people inside the mosque were attending a religious class, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

According to security sources, a child was in a religious class in which the teacher was elaborating a topic on ‘Jihad in Islam’.

The child immediately left the class and informed his father about the presence of terrorists in the mosque. The father then notified the Operations Room of Ministry of Interior.

Securitymen rushed to the mosque and discovered that the people in the mosque were attending a religious class. Investigations revealed that the child had misunderstood the lesson.



KFSD photo

According to a press statement issued by Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD), Hawally firefighters helped in releasing a young child’s finger that was squeezed in a piece of plastic, after which the child was referred to Mubarak Hospital for subsequent treatment.

‘998 ads removed’: Director of Auditing and Follow up of Kuwait Municipality Services in Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governorate Dedan Al-Adwani announced the sector’s achievements for June 2018, saying inspectors issued 17 violations and removed 998 advertisements from streets and public squares within the governorate.

In a statement, Al-Adwani explained the campaign targeted shops, advertisements and central markets in the month of June during which officers checked 105 shops.





Night view of Kuwait City. Jaber Abdulkhaleq — KUNA

# 2,342 job ‘opportunities’ for highly qualified grads

CSC releases statistics on jobs

KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Recent Civil Service Commission (CSC) statistics indicate 2,342 job opportunities are available in public sector for highly qualified graduates; 1,400 for male and 1,370 for female, while the rest is unspecified, reports Al-Qabas daily.

Statistics show 2,400 openings for the holders of Diploma, of which 780 are for male, 260 for fe-

male and the remaining is undetermined, while secondary certificate holders have 1,170 job opportunities for 730 male.

Also, 154 jobs are available in public sector for secondary certificate holders; 20 for male and 53 for female, while the remaining is unspecified, statistics revealed.

With regard to elementary stage certificate holders undergoing two-year courses 320 job are available for them; 126 for male, 97 for females and the rest is not defined,

while 51 opportunities are open to elementary school leavers from both sexes undergoing one-year courses.

Statistics showed that public sector is in need of 86 master’s degree holders; 31 male and 27 female, in addition to 19 PhD holders; 6 males, 7 females and 6 unspecified.

In private sector, 16 jobs are available for elementary leavers undergoing one year training courses, and 14 for primary school leavers.

## Saudi and

Continued from Page 1

a decision to suspend oil export through Bab-el-Mandeb. This is a wise signal to the concerned super powers to rise from the surveillance chair and perform their duty of maintaining energy safety by punishing Iran and preventing it from creating another global recession through oil price hike and escalation of economic downturn.

Doing this will convince countries which are still defending the Houthi’s terrorist actions under the guise of human rights that what is happening in Yemen is about Iran’s efforts to convert the country into another Somalia while pushing the Arabian Gulf countries into a prolonged war and the effect of which on the global economy will be devastating.

Around 3.5 million barrels of oil and other commercial ships pass through Bab-el-Mandeb strait daily. In case the marine route is under terrorist threat, it means all gigantic seaport projects and free trade zones in the African continent are under threat. Can the world, especially the United States, China and France, bear this catastrophic situation or there will be a serious international move to enforce international resolutions related to Yemen under Chapter Seven of the United Nations Charter?

In such a situation, the adage, “Better late than never,” will be useless. The world must protect its economic interests by reverting to the opinion of Saudi Arabia on the serious threats hurled by Houthi militants backed by the foremost world-branded terrorist nation — Iran. This is far better than swallowing bitter pills as it happened after trivializing the Somali pirates attack — which ended in the kidnapping of 3,741 ship crew members and scores of deaths before they finally realized the need to wage war against them and refer them to the International Criminal Court.

## UAE ready

Continued from Page 1

sanctions in exchange for curbs on Tehran’s nuclear programme, calling it a “horrible deal”.

Gargash also said UAE was engaging in a mediation process with Somalia, whose coastline sits close to key shipping routes and across the water from Yemen, following a row over the seizure of several million dollars from a UAE civilian aircraft at Mogadishu

airport.

“There are attempts currently to mediate between us and Somalia,” he said. “We’d like to continue to do our work, but we have made it very clear that we have been wronged with regards to how we were treated with the shipment of nine-point-something million dollars ... we are asking for an apology for that.”

## Iran forces

Continued from Page 1

in a speech, saying that hostile US policies could lead to “the mother of all wars”.

Fanning the heightened tensions, US national security adviser John Bolton said in a statement on Monday: “President Trump told me that if Iran does anything at all to the negative, they will pay a price like few countries have ever paid before.”

Bolton is a proponent of interventionist foreign policy and was US ambassador to the United Nations in the administration of George W. Bush during the Iraq war.

“You (Trump) threaten us with paying a price like few countries have ever paid. Trump, this is the language of night clubs and gambling halls,” said Soleimani, who as Quds Force commander is in charge of the Revolutionary Guards’ overseas operations.

Since Trump’s decision in May to withdraw the United States from a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers, Tehran’s clerical establishment has been under increasing US pressure and the prospect of possible sanctions.

Washington aims to force Tehran to end its nuclear program and its support of militant groups in the Middle East, where Iran is involved in proxy wars from Yemen to Syria.

Despite the bellicose rhetoric, there is limited appetite in Washington for a conflict with Iran, not least because of the difficulties the US military faced in Iraq after its 2003 invasion but also because of the impact on the global economy if conflict raised oil prices.

Mounting US economic pressure, a faltering economy, sliding currency and state corruption are rattling Iran’s clerical rulers, but analysts and insiders rule out any chance of a seismic shift in Iran’s political landscape.

“This is a war of words. Neither side want a military confrontation. But of course, if America attacks Iran, our response will be crushing,” a senior Iranian official, who asked not to be

named, told Reuters.

Trump suggested on Tuesday that talks with Iran were an option, saying “we’re ready to make a real deal”. But Iran rejected it.

While the United States is pushing countries to cut all imports of Iranian oil from November, Iran has warned of counter-measures and has threatened to block Gulf oil exports if its own exports are halted.

“The Red Sea which was secure is no longer secure today with the presence of American forces,” Soleimani said.

Saudi Arabia said on Thursday it was temporarily halting all oil shipments through the Red Sea shipping lane of Bab al-Mandeb after an attack on two oil tankers by Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthi movement.

In other news, Iranian hackers known as “Rocket Kitten” repeatedly target American defense companies in hopes of stealing information to boost Tehran’s missile and space programs. Russian hackers last year compromised dozens of US energy companies. A Chinese cyberespionage group called APT10 relentlessly attacks US engineering, telecom and aerospace industries.

While Moscow’s efforts to meddle in the 2016 US presidential election are widely known, spy services from China, Russia and Iran, along with their proxy hackers also are hard at work trying to steal trade secrets and proprietary information from the United States, according to a government report released Thursday.

“Foreign economic and industrial espionage against the United States continues to represent a significant threat to America’s prosperity, security and competitive advantage,” the National Counterintelligence and Security Center said. “China, Russia and Iran stand out as three of the most capable and active cyber actors tied to economic espionage and the potential theft of US trade secrets and proprietary information.”

Cyberespionage is a relatively low-cost, high-yield way to access and acquire information from US research institutions, universities and corporations, the report said, adding that cloud computing and new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, will expose even more vulnerabilities in US networks.

Cyberoperations are the preferred method for conducting economic espionage, the report said, but US adversaries also acquire sensitive information by hiring sophisticated hackers, recruiting spies or gleaming material from foreign students studying at American universities.

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## Toll in

Continued from Page 1

the assault, the Observatory said.

IS claimed responsibility in a series of statements on its propaganda channels on Wednesday.

It posted gruesome photographs showing jihadists beheading at least four men it said were government fighters it had captured in Sweida.

IS has suffered a series of defeats that saw it ousted from the last urban pockets of the sprawling cross-border “caliphate” it proclaimed in Iraq and Syria in 2014.

But it retains a presence, including in a pocket of the eastern province of Deir Ezzor and in parts of the vast central Badiya desert, including in Sweida.

On Thursday, Syrian foreign minister Walid Muallem slammed the attacks as he hosted a delegation of Chinese diplomats in Damascus, according to state news agency SANA.

He said “DAESH (IS) remnants coming from the Badiya committed a brutal, barbaric crime that left hundreds dead and wounded.”

News websites in Sweida alleged that some of the jihadists who took part in Wednesday’s attack had been given safe passage out of the Yarmuk refugee camp in the southern outskirts of Damascus.

The last IS fighters in the camp were bused out with their relatives in May to desert territory still held by the group.

The Sweida websites posted images that purported to show IS fighters killed in the assault with identification cards showing they were from Yarmuk.

Zeina, a resident of the tiny village of Al-Matuna, said her family woke up to the sound of gunfire and grenade blasts at around 5:30 am (0230 GMT) on Wednesday.

“My relative shot back at one of the fighters outside our home and we heard him scream: ‘The infidels have killed me’,” she told AFP.

Her cousin and his wife were both killed.

“The villages that were attacked were on edge last night, and all the men were on high alert,” Zeina, 32, said on Thursday.

SANA said dozens were killed in the assault but did not give a specific toll.

It said calm returned to Sweida late on Wednesday after government forces and armed villagers surrounded the IS fighters and killed them.

The IS attack drew condemnation from the United Nations as well as government allies Russia and Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

Syria’s Kurds are trying to forge ties with Damascus as they seek to protect gains made in seven years of war, wary of their unpredictable US ally and more ready than ever to negotiate with President Bashar al-Assad.

The main Kurdish groups have emerged among the few winners of the conflict in Syria, carving out autonomous rule over large parts of the north under the control of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militia.

They have mostly avoided conflict with Assad, at times even fighting common foes — including rebels his forces are gradually crushing with help from Russia and Iran.

The YPG joined forces with the United States more than three years ago, becoming its main Syrian partner in the fight against Islamic State. The alliance flew in the face of US ties with NATO member Turkey, which views the YPG as terrorists linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Washington has avoided making any political promises to the Kurds and opposes their autonomy ambitions. Conflicting US statements over Syria have put them on guard, and they worry Washington may ultimately put its ties with Turkey first.

US President Donald Trump said in April he wanted to withdraw troops from Syria soon, while tempering that by expressing a desire to leave a “strong and lasting footprint”.

## Newswatch

Continued from Page 1

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi Airways has suspended two of its pilots for getting into a fight – over a food tray – during an international flight with more than 150 passengers on board.

The row erupted on a flight to the capital Baghdad from the Iranian city of **Mashhad**, with 157 travellers on board plus crew.

“Conversation with the pilot became heated because he forbade an air hostess from bringing me a meal tray, under the pretext that I hadn’t asked him for authorisation,” the co-pilot said in a letter addressed to Iraqi Airways management, seen by AFP. (AFP)

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**DUBAI:** Bahrain’s top Shiite cleric has left intensive care after undergoing a “successful” operation at a **London** hospital, his aides said Thursday.

**Sheikh Isa Qassim**, who left **Manama** for treatment in London earlier this month after his health deteriorated, will “need medical supervision in the coming period”, they said.

The ayatollah, in his late 70s, was stripped of Bahraini nationality in 2016 on charges of “serving foreign interests” and had been under de facto house arrest. (AFP)

□ □ □

**GENEVA:** United Nations human rights experts called on **Bahrain** on Thursday to release detained activists, end restrictions on freedom of expression, and end discrimination against women.

Bahrain, where a Sunni Muslim royal family rules over a Shi’ite-majority population, has cracked down on perceived threats since Arab Spring protests in 2011, led mainly by Shi’ites, were quashed with the help of **Gulf Arab** neighbours.

Demonstrators have clashed frequently with security forces, who have been targeted in several bomb attacks. (RTRS)

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**WASHINGTON:** Vice President **Mike Pence** is threatening NATO ally **Turkey** with economic sanctions over a detained American pastor held on terror and espionage charges.

Pence said Thursday that if Turkey does not take immediate action to free **Andrew Craig Brunson**, “the **United States of America** will impose severe economic sanctions on Turkey.” He spoke at the close of a three-day conference on religious freedom. (AP)

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**JERUSALEM:** **Israel** on Thursday intercepted a rocket fired at southern Israel from Gaza, the military said, a day after it shelled Hamas targets in the coastal strip, killing three Hamas militants.

An army statement said nine rocket launches were identified overnight. One was intercepted and the rest land in open fields. (AP)

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**GAZA CITY:** The military wing of Gaza’s rulers Hamas on Thursday vowed revenge after Israeli strikes killed three militants in the latest flare-up of violence.

**Israel** said the artillery fire late Wednesday was in retaliation for shots fired at troops along the border which injured one soldier.

“We announce the raising of the preparedness level to the highest and alert all of our soldiers and forces in every location,” said a statement from the al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. (AFP)



World News Roundup

Subcontinent

Focus on messages

Georgia gov matchup sets battle for middle

ATLANTA, July 26, (AP): With the Georgia governor’s race now set, the contest between Republican Brian Kemp and Democrat **Stacey Abrams** becomes a question of which candidate can move beyond their partisan bases to capture the electoral middle in this emerging battleground state.

Kemp, a two-term secretary of state backed by President Donald Trump, hardly moderated his approach as he celebrated an overwhelming runoff victory Tuesday. After a campaign featuring guns, chain saws and his smiling pledge to “round up criminal illegals” in his pickup truck, the newly minted Republican nominee painted Abrams as a radical leftist threat to Georgia values.

Abrams, a former state legislative leader, isn’t a radical by any conventional definition of US politics, but she’s run an aggressive campaign to energize the Democratic base by pledging to expand Medicaid insurance and spend more on education, infrastructure, and job training. She also backs tighter gun restrictions, abortion rights and removing Confederate monuments from state property. Her effort to become the nation’s first black woman elected governor has made her a national political celebrity.

“The contrast ... could not be sharper,” said Emory University political science professor Alan Abramowitz. “Kemp is running as an all-out Trump supporter and a ‘politically incorrect conservative.’ Abrams is not only the first African-American candidate for governor in Georgia, but probably the most liberal Democratic candidate for governor in history.”

Both national parties are running ads labeling the opposition as dangerous.



Abrams

Slams

A Republican Governors Association spot slams Abrams as the “most radical liberal ever to run for governor” — the voiceover doesn’t even limit the claim to Georgia. The Democratic Governors Association labels Kemp irrational, using the same secretly recorded audio Kemp exploited to defeat Lt Gov Casey Cagle, who lamented that the GOP contest came down to “who had the biggest gun, who had the biggest truck, and who could be the craziest.”

For her part, the 44-year-old Abrams steered clear of heated partisan broadsides. After Kemp’s victory, she sent a Twitter fundraising appeal that mentioned her Republican rival only by his last name. “Service, faith & family guide our vision for GA: Affordable healthcare. Excellent public schools for every child. An economy that works for all,” she wrote. She isn’t expected to campaign publicly or grant media interviews until Thursday.

Georgia’s version of the widening gulf between the two major parties in style and substance in the Trump era offers plenty of spillover effects nationally. Kemp’s victory margin affirms Trump’s imprint and the Republican base’s continued embrace of hardliners, sending another warning to establishment critics of the president.

November’s vote will test this strategy with two candidates that could hardly be more different.

**GOP, Dems focus on messages:** House Democrats have a plan for helping students afford the growing costs of college, in part by creating a partnership with states to provide two years of tuition-free community college. They also want to take \$5 billion House Republicans have proposed for President Donald Trump’s long-promised wall with Mexico and divert it to other immigration programs.

One House-passed bill, backed mostly by Republicans, would repeal a tax imposed on some medical devices to help pay for the “Obamacare” healthcare law, a statute the GOP despises. With another, still a bare-bones outline, Republicans would make last year’s \$1.5 trillion tax cut permanent and expand reductions for families, homeschooling and businesses.

Lawmakers promoted each of these efforts this week, though none seems likely to become law soon. Yet while the measures may languish, they perform an age-old campaign-season function for both parties: honing their messages for elections, just over 100 days away, in which the prize is congressional control.

The House starts summer recess at week’s end, and lawmakers need arguments to take home for town halls and for campaign advertising. Democrats need to gain 23 seats in November’s midterms to capture House control, which is widely seen as doable, so both sides are producing measures that may go nowhere but can shore up political weak spots or embarrass the other party.

Amplified

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis, amplified the GOP message to reporters on Tuesday, giving Republicans credit for the strengthening economy and using Democrats as a foil.

“They’ve scoffed at Americans who’ve benefited from more money in their paychecks,” he said, referring to House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi’s comparison of GOP tax cuts for the wealthy to the “crumbs” that went to lower earners. “They’re determined to erase this progress. Even more, they want to take this country to a dramatically different place, to the far left.”

As evidence, Ryan cited recent proposals from Democrats’ liberal wing to abolish US Customs and Immigration Enforcement and push for “Medicare for All,” or government-paid health care. Many Democrats have distanced themselves from both ideas.

Democrats produced ammunition of their own. They announced their “Aim Higher Act,” which would make higher education more affordable and restrict federal aid for for-profit schools often criticized for huge student loan defaults. They contrasted it with a GOP bill that would create new partnerships between colleges and industry but also limit how much federal education money students could borrow.

“We want a world where parents don’t have to choose between college for their kids or paying the rent,” said Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif.

On the House Appropriations Committee, Democrats were trying to pare the \$5 billion for Trump’s border wall in Republican legislation financing the Homeland Security Department. Democrats’ real clout to force that number down resides in the narrowly divided Senate, which will have to reach compromise with the House before the figure is finalized. But meanwhile, Democrats will be able to argue to liberals, Hispanics and other supporters that they battled Trump’s wall proposal.



Egyptian immigrant Heba Ramirez wears an American flag hijab, while waiting in a restaurant to attend a naturalization ceremony and be sworn in as a US citizen, on July 25, in Los Angeles, California. Two naturalization ceremonies held today at the Los Angeles Convention Center are expected to welcome more than 8,800 immigrants from 128 countries. During FY 2016, the United States welcomed 752,800 new citizens to the country. (AFP)

Education

Schools must follow to avoid trouble: De Vos

Rules would cut \$13b in student loan relief

WASHINGTON, July 26, (AP): Students who are defrauded by their schools would have a harder time getting their federal loans erased under new rules proposed by the Trump administration Wednesday.

Students who are defrauded by their schools would have a harder time getting their federal loans erased under new rules proposed by the Trump administration Wednesday. The proposal, which aims to replace a set of Obama-era rules that were never implemented, drew applause from the for-profit industry but sharp criticism from advocacy groups that represent student borrowers.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said the proposal lays out clear rules schools must follow to avoid trouble, while also protecting students harmed by deception.

“Our commitment and our focus has been and remains on protecting students from fraud,” DeVos said.

Under the proposal, students would be eligible for loan relief if they can prove their schools knowingly misled them with statements or actions that directly led them to take out loans or enroll at the school.

That would be a higher bar than the

borrower defense rules finalized under Obama in 2016 after the collapse of two for-profit schools, Corinthian Colleges and ITT Technical Institute. Those rules allowed relief in a wider range of cases dealing with breach of contract. Education Department documents supporting DeVos’ proposal argue that, while students should be protected from fraud, they also have an obligation to do their research before picking schools.

**Expected**

“Postsecondary students are adults who can be reasonably expected to make informed decisions if they have access to relevant and reliable data about program outcomes,” the department said.

The new proposal is estimated to save nearly \$13 billion over the next decade compared with spending estimates under the Obama rules, primarily by reducing the amount of loan relief awarded to students.

Department officials say they have received more than 100,000 fraud claims since 2015, and most are still under review. But the new rules would apply only to loans taken out after July

1, 2019, officials said.

Schools would gain an opportunity to respond to claims of fraud under the new proposal, which says schools deserve to defend themselves against accusations that could damage their reputations and revenue.

It also would allow schools to force students into arbitration agreements barring them from suing the school, a practice used by some for-profit colleges that would have been banned under Obama’s rules. Opponents blasted the proposal, saying it places schools ahead of students and discourages victims from pursuing financial relief.

“It encourages abusive and predatory institutions to continue to rip off students with impunity, while slamming the door on the debt relief that Congress has instructed the department to provide to cheated students,” said Toby Merrill, director of the Project on Predatory Student Lending at Harvard University.

Bob Shireman, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation and a former education official under Obama, said the proposal “is perhaps the most damaging action Betsy DeVos has taken since assuming office.”

America

**WH bars CNN correspondent:** A CNN correspondent was barred from attending an open press event at the White House on Wednesday because of questions she asked President Donald Trump earlier in the day.

Kaitlan Collins and her employer, CNN, say the White House denied Collins access to Trump’s Rose Garden event with the European Commission president because officials found her earlier questions “inappropriate.”

Collins had served as a representative of the television networks during an earlier pool spray in the Oval Office. She and a handful of other reporters peppered the president with questions, including many focused on his former lawyer, Michael Cohen.

CNN on Tuesday obtained and aired a secret audio recording that captured Trump and Cohen discussing a potential payment to a former Playboy model who claims she had an affair with Trump. It is standard protocol for reporters to ask the president questions at such events, and Trump, unlike some of his predecessors, often engages. (AP)

**US has abandoned role:** Former president Jimmy Carter has warned that the United States has “abandoned” its standing as the premier champion of human rights, showing “indifference” to abuse at home

and abroad.

“The United States has already lost its place as a leader of protecting people and their human rights,” the Democratic ex-president told a Human Rights Defenders Forum on Tuesday at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

“We still have a chance to restore our position as the foremost champion of human rights, but we are not in that position at this moment,” said Carter, who won the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize for his work

promoting human rights, democracy and development.

“If we retain our present position of indifference to human rights violations, we’ll encourage” such violations to grow even more rapidly than they have in recent years, he stressed. (AFP)

**Amazon’s ‘face ID’ mismatched 28:** A facial recognition tool that Amazon.

com Inc sells to web developers wrongly identified 28 members of Congress as police suspects, in a test conducted by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the organization said on Thursday.

Amazon, in a response, said it took issue with the settings of its face ID tool during the test. The findings nonetheless highlight the risks that individuals could face if police use the technology in certain ways to catch criminals. (RTSR)

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World News Roundup

Diplomacy

Putin overplays winning hand

US won't recognize Crimea annexation, delays summit

WASHINGTON, July 26. (Agencies): President **Donald Trump's** top national security aides sought to fend off accusations the president is too soft on Russia by declaring Wednesday that the US will never recognize the annexation of Crimea and by postponing a second proposed summit between Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

As Secretary of State Mike Pompeo prepared to face questions about last week's Trump-Putin meeting from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the White House said Trump had opted against trying to meet with Putin this fall, as had been announced, and would instead wait until 2019. National security adviser John Bolton cited special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election as the reason for the delay.

"The President believes that the next bilateral meeting with President Putin should take place after the Russia witch hunt is over, so we've agreed that it will be after the first of the year," Bolton said. The White House said last week that Trump had directed Bolton to invite Putin to Washington for a meeting in the fall. This came amid the backlash over Trump's performance at a news conference with Putin following their Helsinki summit, and many members of Congress had objected to them meeting again in the fall.

In the meantime, Pompeo issued a statement titled the "Crimea Declaration" in which he said the US will continue to insist that Ukraine's territorial integrity be restored. He said the US would hold to its long-standing principle of refusing to recognize Kremlin claims of sovereignty over territory seized by force in violation of international law. And he called for Russia to respect principles it claims to respect and "end its occupation of Crimea."

Rejects

"In concert with allies, partners, and the international community, the United States rejects Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and pledges to maintain this policy until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored," Pompeo said in the declaration, which was released by the State Department shortly before he was to testify.

Pompeo is expected to face tough questioning from committee members about Trump's summit with Putin. Trump has suggested that US opposition to Russia's annexation of Crimea could be reconsidered.

In the declaration, Pompeo took Russia to task for its actions in Ukraine, particularly the 2014 annexation of Crimea. Russia has defended its move, saying Crimean voters approved the annexation in a referendum. The US and its European allies have said the referendum was illegal as it was held without the consent of the government in Kiev and was conducted in a highly flawed manner.

"Through its actions, Russia has acted in a manner unworthy of a great nation and has chosen to isolate itself from the international community,"

Pompeo said in the statement.

Even before the statement was released, Pompeo was taking a tough line on Russia and defending the Trump-Putin meeting as he prepared for his Senate testimony.

In an interview transcript released ahead of the Crimea statement, Pompeo said Trump and Putin "didn't find much place to agree" on Ukraine when they met in Finland last week. He said Trump made clear to Putin that the so-called Minsk Accords to settle the Ukraine conflict is the right path forward.

Russia's political and business leaders were quick to chalk up last week's summit with Trump as a victory for Putin. Now some fear Putin may have overplayed a winning hand and are bracing for a US sanctions backlash. The rouble fell 1.2 percent on Tuesday after two US senators said in a statement they had begun working on new sanctions that would, among other things, take aim at Russian sovereign debt. It later recovered most of its losses.

While the sanctions proposed by Republican Lindsey Graham and Democrat Bob Menendez were seen by most political risk analysts as unlikely in the near term, new curbs contemplated by other US lawmakers targeting the energy and metals sectors are more realistic, they say.

Dialogue

"There was hope that dialogue would start after the talks between Putin and Trump. But the reaction inside the United States is blocking any dialogue," said one billionaire included in January on a US Treasury list of people deemed too close to the Kremlin, some of whom were later hit with sanctions.

"The threat of wider sanctions has grown," the businessman told Reuters, declining to be named because of the subject's sensitivity.

Russian business people had hoped the Helsinki meeting, the first between the two presidents, would pave the way for a possible thaw in relations and delay, if not stop, the preparation of more sanctions which have followed thick and fast since Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea.

Instead, anger about what some US lawmakers saw as a too-deferential performance by Trump in Helsinki and his failure to publicly confront Putin over Moscow's alleged meddling in US politics may have made things worse.

In a country where state media portrays Putin as a seemingly infallible leader, even some of his supporters were fretting that he may have made an error by appearing to demonstrably take Trump's side.

In Helsinki, Putin said for the first time that he had wanted Trump to win the 2016 US presidential election and after the summit complained about political forces in the United States trying to undermine the meeting's outcome.

Sergei Markov, a longtime Putin supporter and former lawmaker for the ruling United Russia party, wrote on social media after the summit that the Russian president had outplayed Trump in Helsinki "by a big margin", but added:

"... In doing so he created a problem because he exposed his partner to fierce criticism in the United States."



An aerial view shows a burnt area following a wildfire in the village of Mati, near Athens on July 26. Greece was counting the cost of its deadliest wildfires in living memory, as emergency crews searched incinerated homes and vehicles for the missing after at least 82 people were confirmed to have died. (AFP)

Greece

Search for the continues

Greece seeks survivors, answers after deadly fire

RAFINA, July 26, (RTRS): Sorrow was giving way to anger in Greece on Thursday as rescuers searched scorched land and the coastline for survivors three days after a wildfire destroyed a village outside Athens killing at least 82 people.

Desperate relatives appeared on television to plead for help. Some blamed authorities for the disaster, the country's deadliest blaze in decades, as one official suggested the residents of Mati should have been evacuated earlier.

"This shouldn't have happened, people perished for no reason," a woman in tears shouted at Defence Minister Panos Kammenos as he visited the village and nearby fire-ravaged areas. "You left us at God's mercy!"

With the death toll expected to rise, about 300 firemen and volunteers combed through the area looking for dozens still missing, who

included nine-year-old twin sisters.

Others took to broadcast networks to appeal for information.

One woman said she was looking for her brother, who had been returning from work when the fire broke out. "My father was the last person to talk to him on Monday evening," Katerina Hamilothori told Skai TV. "We have had no news at all."

Fire

The cause of the fire is still unclear, and is being investigated by an Athens prosecutor who is also reviewing the way it was handled.

Local authorities said high and unpredictable winds would have made even the best-executed evacuation plan futile, but firefighters told Reuters that some water hydrants in the area were empty. One theory being examined

Britain

'Shouldn't be alarmed'

British Prime Minister Theresa May said the public should be reassured rather than alarmed by government plans to stockpile medicines and blood products ahead of a possible no-deal Brexit.

With just over eight months left until Britain is due to leave the European Union, there is little clarity about how trade will flow as May, who is grappling with a rebellion in her Conservative party, is still trying to strike a deal with the bloc. (RTRS)

**Huge fire breaks out:** A huge fire broke out in a five-storey residential building in London's West Hampstead in the early hours of Thursday, forcing rescuers to evacuate dozens of people, and it took nearly four hours to douse the blaze, the London Fire Brigade said.

About 100 firefighters and 15 fire engines were tackling the blaze on Inglewood Road. Firefighters evacuated residents from the top floor due to concerns that the roof could collapse inward, fire brigade said. "The fire is believed to have started in a flat on the fourth floor," fire brigade station manager Clainton Murray said (RTRS)

**Father charged:** Five men appeared in a British court on Wednesday over a suspected acid attack on a three-year-old boy, including the victim's own father and three Slovaks.

The boy was taken to hospital with serious burns to his arm and face following the attack outside a store in Worcester, central England, on Saturday.

The boy's father, 39, who has not been named for legal reasons, appeared alongside the four others in court.

They have all been charged with conspiring between July 16 and July 21 to cause grievous bodily harm to the victim with intent.

The others were named as **Adam Cech**, 27, and Jan Dudi, 25, Slovakian nationals from Birmingham, Norbert Pulko, 22, a Slovakian from London, and Jabar Paktia, 41, from Wolverhampton, central England. (AFP)



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World News Roundup

China

Defence min to visit India

US embassy blast ‘wounds’ suspect

BEIJING, July 26, (RTRS): A bomb exploded outside the US embassy in Beijing on Thursday, wounding the lone assailant, the embassy said in a statement, but police described the weapon merely as a “firework device”.

The explosion happened on the street outside southeast corner of the embassy compound. Beijing police said the suspect, a 26-year-old man from China’s Inner Mongolia region, had injured his hand and been taken to hospital.

Police did not provide a motive.

China and the United States have been involved in a trade dispute initiated by Washington with the two sides imposing tariffs on \$34 billion worth of each other’s goods. US President **Donald Trump** has threatened ultimately to impose punitive tariffs on all Chinese imports.

While Chinese officials and state media have been outspoken in their criticism of Washington’s trade moves, there has not been a groundswell of outrage on China’s heavily censored social media, and no reported boycotts of US goods.

Witnesses told Reuters that they heard an explosion near the embassy and felt tremors.

“I’d just arrived and started to queue and then heard a loud explosion about 100 metres away,” a 19-year-old high school student who gave his name as Li told reporters.

Li said the blast happened shortly after 1 pm as he queued to apply for a US visa to take an exam in Los Angeles.

A police SUV appeared to have been damaged, with its back windshield missing, and was cordoned off by police before being removed, a Reuters witness said.

The embassy resumed normal operations at about 1.45 pm, it said.



Trump

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Traffic

Crowds were still queuing outside the embassy after the explosion and traffic was moving as normal in an area of northeastern Beijing that is home to numerous embassies including those of France, India and Israel.

Postings on social media showed pictures of smoke close to where people line up outside the compound for visa appointments. Some video clips and images were later removed.

Li Shaohui, a 58-year-old sanitation worker, said he felt the ground shake and that some people screamed.

“I thought first there was big a car crash,” Li told Reuters, adding that the smoke had cleared quickly.

There was no damage to US embassy property, the embassy said. Staff members at the Indian and South Korean embassies said they were unaware of any unusual incident and were working as normal.

The state-run Global Times reported separately, citing witnesses, that police took away a woman who sprayed herself with gasoline in a suspected self-immolation attempt outside the embassy at around 11 a.m. It was not clear whether this woman’s actions were related to the later explosion, the paper said.

A witness who did not want to be identified told Reuters that he saw a middle-aged woman with two buckets of gasoline. On her back were the Chinese characters for “sue them”.

Beijing police and the US embassy did not immediately reply to a request for comment on the woman. Security in the Chinese capital is tight and protests are often quickly disbanded. Violent crime rates are low in China, according to official statistics.

**Graft suspects detained:** Suspects held under a controversial new detention measure introduced nation-wide by China’s anti-graft super ministry this year must be well treated, the corruption watchdog said on Thursday.

China’s rubber-stamp parliament, the National People’s Congress, finalised in March the establishment of a National Supervision Commission with the power to investigate all state employees, expanding the power of the existing regulator that had previously focused on Communist Party members.

The powerful new body has been criticised by some legal scholars for failing to protect the rights of suspects during investigations, in part because it will use a controversial “liuzhi”, or detention, system that operates outside existing criminal procedure law.

President Xi Jinping launched a sweeping campaign against deep-seated corruption more than five years ago. There have been several high-profile cases of graft suspects being mistreated or tortured, which the government has vowed to root out.

The graft-fighting Central Commission for Discipline Inspection outlined new rules it said made clear that the new detention method was not to be abused and acknowledged public concern.

**China def min to visit India:** Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe has accepted an invitation to visit India and plans to do so by the end of this year, China said on Thursday, as a rapprochement between the two giant neighbours gathers pace.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed in April to open a new chapter in ties, just months after a dispute over a stretch of their high-altitude Himalayan border rekindled fears of war.

Speaking at a regular monthly news briefing, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang said both countries were currently in communication about Wei’s visit, but gave no other details.

Hundreds of troops from both sides were deployed in 2017 on the Doklam plateau, near the borders of India, its ally Bhutan, and China after India objected to Chinese construction of a road in the Himalayan area in their most serious stand-off in years. There is still deep mistrust between the neighbours over their festering border dispute, which triggered a brief war in 1962.



Supporters of Pakistan’s cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan, head of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice) party, celebrate during general election in Lahore on July 25. Vote-counting was ongoing in a knife-edge Pakistan general election as former cricket hero Imran Khan sought power on a day marred by a bloody suicide bombing and claims of military interference. (AFP)

Pakistan

Electoral chaos grips Pakistan

Election results delayed as Khan tipped for power

ISLAMABAD, July 26, (Agencies): Pakistan was gripped by electoral chaos Thursday with the results from its pivotal general election delayed and major parties denouncing “blatant rigging”, as former cricket champion Imran Khan appeared on course for victory.

Results were still being tallied Thursday, hours after Khan’s supporters took to the streets to celebrate winning an election that opponents have said the powerful military rigged in his favour.

The unprecedented delay, along with a surprisingly strong lead in early results for Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, have fuelled widespread fears over the legitimacy of the exercise.

Newspapers and television channels have been predicting victory for PTI since late Wednesday. By Thursday partial, unofficial results gave him at least 100 seats so far in the National Assembly, the lower house.

A majority of 137 seats is needed to form a government.

Khan’s ex-wife, British film producer Jemima Goldsmith, tweeted her congratulations.

“22 years later, after humiliations, hurdles and sacrifices, my sons’ father is Pakistan’s next PM,” she wrote.

The Election Commission of Pakistan dismissed allegations of manipulation, blaming the delay on glitches in new, untested counting software. “These elections were 100 per cent fair and transparent,” said Chief Election Commissioner Sardar Muhammad Raza early Thursday as the outcry grew.

Election authorities have not yet confirmed when they expect to announce the results. Some reports suggested it would not be until Thursday evening at the earliest.

Election observers including a mission from the European Union are due to give their own observations on the voting process on Friday.

**Situation**

Neither Khan nor the military, which had been accused of seeking to manipulate the vote in his favour in the months leading up to the polls, have yet commented on the situation. Both have previously denied allegations of intervention.

Late Wednesday, the once-mighty Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), which had been in power since 2013, rejected the results because of “outright rigging”, and vowed it would use “all political and legal options for redressal of these glaring excesses”.

“What they have done has pushed Pakistan back 30 years... People will not bear it,” the party’s leader Shabbaz Sharif, brother of jailed former premier Nawaz Sharif, said.

He said the party was due to meet Thursday to decide a way forward.

Other major parties also alleged fraud, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), whose chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari echoed the PML-N’s claim that party representatives were barred from monitoring the count.

The size of Khan’s lead against the PML-N, when many ana-

lysts had predicted a coalition would be likely, was also increasing concern over the process, analysts said.

“The surprisingly high seat total for PTI, even as the votes continue to be counted, will be enough to trigger the suspicions of the PPP and PML-N,” said Michael Kugelman, an analyst at the Wilson Center in Washington.

At least one party – Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP), which blockaded the capital Islamabad for weeks last year over blasphemy – has already announced they are planning protests.

“This is complete chaos,” said political analyst Azeema Cheema, who said she was “very concerned” about what comes next.

“It depends on how the civilian disobedience is being organised. You may have spontaneous riots among political party workers. Then maybe political parties will organise sit-ins and demonstrations,” she told AFP.

Kugelman shared the concern. “I don’t see any way to prevent a period of turmoil,” he told AFP.

But PTI supporters were ecstatic at the projected results.

First-time voter Fahad Hussain, 21, said the party had “motivated the youth” as he hit the streets in Islamabad to celebrate with friends. The controversy follows a campaign already considered by some observers to be one of the “dirtiest” in Pakistan’s history because of the allegations against the military, and marked by the increased visibility of extremist religious parties.

History

Wednesday’s elections were meant to be a rare democratic transition from one civilian government to another in the young, nuclear-armed country which has been ruled by the military for roughly half its history.

Khan, who captained Pakistan to their World Cup cricket victory in 1992, vowed to tackle widespread graft while building an “Islamic welfare state”.

But he was dogged by the accusations he was benefiting from a “silent coup” by the generals which targeted the PML-N. Nawaz Sharif was ousted from power last year and jailed over a corruption conviction days before the vote, removing Khan’s most dangerous rival. Khan has also increasingly catered to hardline religious groups, sparking fears a win for PTI could embolden Islamist extremists.

Analysts have expressed concern that disgruntled losers could create instability for the incoming new government, which will face mounting challenges – including a crumbling economy, a crippling debt and a raging militancy.

As voting got underway on Wednesday in the southwestern city of Quetta, the Baluchistan provincial capital, militants sent a suicide bomber to a crowding polling station to carry out a deadly attack that killed 31 people.

The election, in which Pakistanis voted for the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament, and the four provincial assemblies, marked only the second time in Pakistan’s 71-year history that one civilian government has handed power to another in the country of 200 million people.



Indian children stand under an umbrella near India Gate during heavy rain in New Delhi on July 26. Heavy monsoon rains hit the Indian capital and surrounding areas bringing down temperatures. (AFP)



Duterte

Sen

Asia

**Autonomy law OK’d:** Philippine President **Rodrigo Duterte** on Thursday approved a long-awaited law to allow minority Muslims in the south to start moving towards self-rule by 2022, a bid to tackle extremism and defuse a half-century of separatist conflict.

The green light is the culmination of a lengthy and rocky peace accord with separatists, during which militants linked to Islamic State have expanded their influence, most notably in their devastating occupation of Marawi City last year. Duterte signed the measure into law after a visit to a southern city, his spokesman, Harry Roque, told reporters.

Ebrahim Murad, chairman of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said he was confident the law would help bring splinter separatist groups back into the political fold and eliminate prospects of any incidents like Marawi.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law, as the measure is known, has broad public backing, making it harder for foreign extremists to form alliances and win support, he told reporters. (RTRS)

**Cambodia fines 5:** Five former members of Cambodia’s outlawed opposition party were found guilty and fined \$2,500 each on Thursday for calling for a boycott of Sunday’s general election.

The main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) was dissolved last year and 118 members were banned from politics for five years, part of a wide-ranging crackdown by Prime Minister Hun Sen who is looking to extend 33 years in power.

Hun Sen’s ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP) lodged a complaint against 30 former CNRP members in Battambang province after they posted pictures of themselves raising their index fingers on Facebook in what authorities said was an appeal to Cambodians to abstain from voting.

The CPP also complained about the sharing of messages by the former CNRP leader Sam Rainsy, who lives in exile in France.

Sam Rainsy launched a Clean Finger boycott campaign earlier this year. It refers to the ink used to stain the fingers of citizens who have

voted. “Their actions caused confusion among the population,” Hang Puthea, spokesman for the National Election Committee (NEC), told Reuters, referring to the five found guilty. (RTRS)

**Laos seeks aid:** Troops searched for survivors in the remote southern tip of Laos on Thursday, three days after the collapse of a hydropower dam sent a torrent of water across paddy fields and through villages, as rescuers rushed aid to thousands



An elderly flood victim wipes her eyes as she takes shelter in a school compound in Sanamxai, Attapeu province, on July 26. Rescuers battled fresh rains to reach scores of people still missing after a dam collapse in southern Laos that unleashed a torrent of water, washing away whole villages and killing at least 26 people. (AFP)

of homeless.

The scale of the disaster was still unclear, in part because of the inaccessibility of the area but also because reports from the communist country’s state media have been scant and sketchy.

The official Laos News Agency

Cambodian, Indian bag Asia’s ‘Nobel’

MANILA, Philippines, July 26, (AP): A Cambodian genocide survivor who helped document the Khmer Rouge atrocities and an Indian psychiatrist who led the rescue of thousands of mentally ill street paupers to treat and reunite them with their families are among the six winners of this year’s Ramon Mag-saysay Awards, regarded as Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize.

The other recipients named Thursday are a Filipino who led peace talks with communist insurgents.

said that about 26 people were confirmed dead and more than 130 were missing following the failure of the dam on Monday, a subsidiary structure under construction as part of a hydroelectric project.

The Vientiane Times reported on Wednesday that more than 3,000 were awaiting rescue from swirling floodwaters.

But on Thursday, the newspaper cited Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith as saying that only one person had been found dead and all those who sought shelter on trees and the rooftops of submerged houses had been plucked to safety.

“His comment corrected misinformation carried by many media outlets that reported more deaths,” it said, adding that 3,060 had been made homeless by the disaster.

A situation report from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said roads and bridges were damaged and eight villages had been hit by flash flooding after the failure of the dam in the province of Attapeu. It said boat and helicopter were the only means of transport in the affected areas.

Schools in safe areas were being used as evacuation centres, and about 1,300 families needed tents for shelter, it said. (RTRS)



Africa

S. Sudan foes to share power

Modi plans 18 new embassies

KAMPALA, July 26, (Agencies): India will open 18 new embassies across Africa, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** told Uganda's parliament on Wednesday during a charm-offensive tour of the continent.

Rounding off a two-day visit to Kampala, Modi also announced the donation of a badly-needed cancer therapy machine and loans worth \$200 million (171 million euros) for infrastructure and environmental projects.

India, the world's most populous democracy, is vying for influence in Africa with its regional competitor China which has aggressively developed trade, financial and diplomatic ties on the continent.

India currently has 29 full diplomatic missions in Africa, according to Delhi, compared to China which has 50.

It hopes to open its new missions within three years, according to an Indian official who did not confirm which countries would receive envoys.

Modi also praised Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni for welcoming back the so-called Uganda Asians who were expelled by despot Idi Amin Dada, who was in turn ousted by Museveni.

"Your visionary leadership has enabled Ugandan people of Indian origin to return to their cherished home, regain their lives and help rebuild the nation that they deeply love," Modi told a crowded parliament chamber, becoming the first Indian prime minister to address the legislature.

**S. Sudan foes to share power:** South Sudan's warring leaders have agreed to share power once again in the latest effort to end a five-year civil war, officials announced Wednesday, days after the United States said it was "skeptical" the two men whose rivalry has killed tens of thousands could lead the way to peace.

South Sudan's information minister, Michael Makuei Lueth, announced the agreement between President Salva Kiir and armed opposition leader Riek Machar to reporters in Sudan's capital, Khartoum. The agreement initialed Wednesday

will be signed on Aug 5, Sudan's Foreign Minister Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed said.

Kiir will lead South Sudan's government during a transitional period and Machar will return as first vice president, Sudan's official SUNA news agency reported.

The opposition can "live with" the agreement, but it will fail if early steps such as security arrangements aren't implemented, Manasseh Zindo, who has been directly involved with the negotiations for Machar's group, told The Associated Press.

**Probe \$150b pension fund:** South Africa's finance minister on Wednesday ordered an independent inquiry into the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), the state pension manager, following corruption allegations involving senior executives.

This month the PIC, Africa's largest fund with over \$150 billion assets under management, allowed its executive head for governance and compliance to resign with immediate effect over wrongdoing linked to the collapse of the politically connected VBS Mutual Bank.

Another executive was fired earlier this year over his role in the matter.

The curator who the central bank appointed for VBS said in an affidavit that an unnamed PIC executive had taken a 5 million rand (\$379,000) bribe to facilitate a 350 million rand payment to the bank.

Details on the independent inquiry and its terms of reference would be announced at a later date.

**Dam construction manager dead:** Ethiopia's state media says the construction manager of the controversial dam being built on the Nile River was found dead Thursday morning in the center of the capital.

ETV reported that Engineer Semegnew Bekele was discovered dead inside his car at Meskel Square in Addis Ababa. It said the body was taken to a hospital to determine the cause of death.

An AP reporter saw a Toyota Land-cruiser surrounded by police officers who were trying to disperse a crowd from the scene.

Semegnew is credited for managing the construction of hydroelectric dams in Ethiopia.



Handout picture released by the press office of Paraguayan President-elect Mario Abdo Benítez shows him shooting during a training session with the US Army Special Forces and the Paraguayan Special Forces in Asuncion on July 25. (AFP)

Lat/Am

**Anti-Maduro paper clings on:** Three hours before Venezuela's El Nacional newspaper goes to print, a bare-bones staff of 20 journalists toils in its vast newsroom, surrounded by empty desks.

A poster on a wall warns employees not to steal toilet paper while another asks for medicine for a reporter's mother, as the scarcity of basic goods that has forced over a million people to leave Venezuela also takes its toll on the country's last independent national newspaper.

Printing the paper has become a daily struggle, its editors say. Currency controls imposed by the Venezuelan government are strangling imports, meaning newsprint, ink and printing equipment are scarce.

Now, however, El Nacional finds itself at a potentially perilous juncture after President **Nicolas Maduro**'s top lieutenant successfully sued for defamation in a Venezuelan court.

Diosdado Cabello, head of Venezuela's powerful Constituent Assembly, sued El Nacional in 2015 after it re-published an article from Spanish newspaper ABC reporting he was under investigation by US authorities for drug trafficking.

Cabello has denied any involvement in the drug trade. He says there is no proof against him and the accusations are aimed at tarnishing his reputation. (RTRS)

**Fujimori quietly turning 80:** Peruvian ex-president **Alberto Fujimori** turns 80 on Saturday — his first birthday in 12 years out of prison — with his children, and the nation, sharply divided over his political legacy.

"Let history judge my successes and my errors," Fujimori wrote in a message sent to AFP ahead of his birthday. He said he was

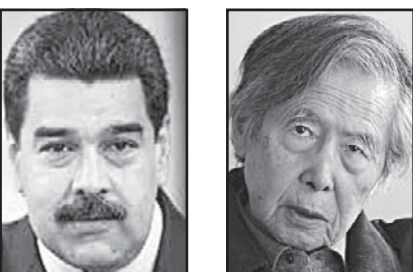
comforted by the conviction that he had laid a solid foundation for a country that would "finally reach its destiny, which is to be a leader in Latin America."

His birthday, which he said would be austere, celebrated, will find him living alone in a rented house in Lima. He has been working on a memoir about his decade in power (1990-2000), a period marked by corruption but also by a fight against guerrillas and terrorism.

"I have reached 80 bearing the marks of the years, with all the shocks of political life, the enormous satisfactions and the profound regrets," he wrote.

Since gaining his freedom seven months ago after a pardon by then-president Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, Fujimori, an engineer and mathematician by training, has retired to write, to tend to his garden — a special passion — and to spend time with his four children and two granddaughters. (AFP)

**14K credit cards hacked in Chile:** Hackers gained access to some 14,000 credit card numbers in Chile and published them on social media, the government said late Wednesday.



Maduro

Fujimori

The government's bank regulatory agency said the hack was carried out by a mysterious group called the Shadow Brokers, known for hacking the NSA in the United States in 2016.

The banks affected by the attack included Santander, Itau, Scotiabank and Banco de Chile. They notified clients of the intrusion. The government did not say what the potential financial loss was.

In June, Banco de Chile, one of the biggest in this country, said hackers robbed it of \$10 million.

That hack was carried out from eastern Europe or Asia and some of the money ended up in Hong Kong, the bank said. (AFP)

**'Privatize P. Rico power agency':** Federal lawmakers demanded Wednesday that Puerto Rico quickly privatize its bankrupt power company in a bid to end its turmoil and allow others to provide stable electricity in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Frustration grew as consultants and local and federal officials testified during a hearing on the management crisis at Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority held by the US House Committee on Natural Resources in Washington.

Republican Rep Don Young of Alaska urged the Department of Energy to set a timeline on how long it would take to privatize the US territory's power company, saying that five or 10 years is "too damn long."

"We are going to privatize this unit," he said. "It has been a failure. Puerto Ricans deserve better." (AP)

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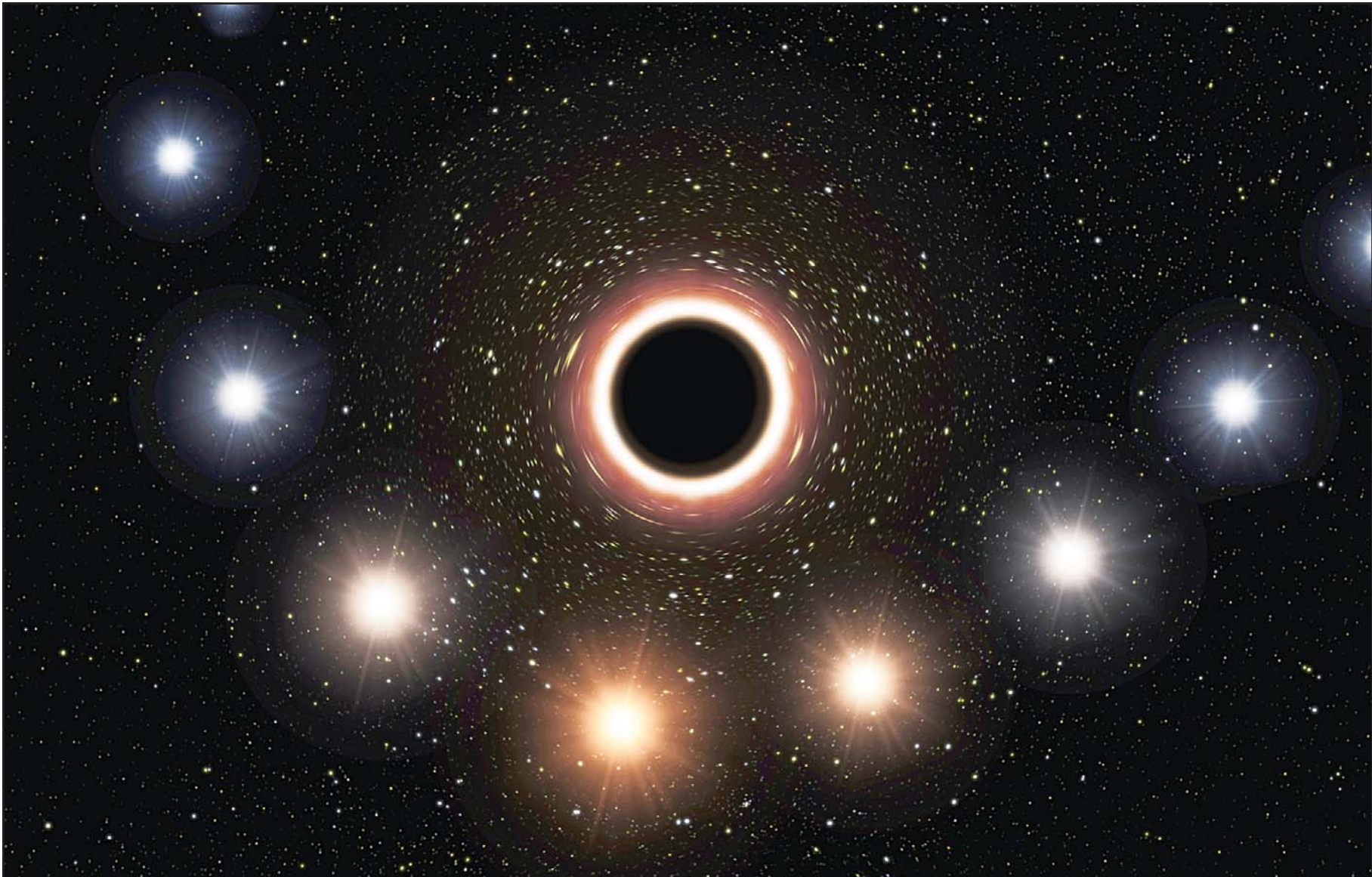
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DESTINATION WEDDING

Patrick



World News Roundup



This artist's impression provided by the European Southern Observatory in July 2018 shows the path of the star S2 as it passes close to the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way galaxy. As the star gets nearer to the black hole, a very strong gravitational field causes the color of the star to shift slightly to the red, an effect of Einstein's general theory of relativity. European researchers reported the results of their observations in the journal Astronomy & Astrophysics on July 26. (AP)

Astronomy

'Theory of relativity'

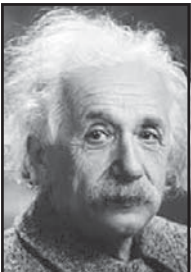
Astronomers confirm Einstein's key theory

PARIS, July 26, (AFP) - A consortium of astronomers said Thursday they had for the first time confirmed a prediction of **Albert Einstein's** theory of general relativity by observing the gravitational effects of a supermassive black hole on a star zipping by it.

The German-born theoretical physicist had posited that large gravitational forces could stretch light, much like the compression and stretching of sound waves we perceive with the change of pitch of a passing train.

Researchers from the GRAVITY consortium led by the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics realised that they had a "perfect laboratory" to test Einstein's theory with the Sagittarius A\* black hole in the centre of the Milky Way.

Black holes are so dense that their gravitational pull can trap even light, and the supermassive Sagittarius A\* has mass four million times that of our sun, making it the biggest in our galaxy.



Einstein

Astronomers followed the S2 star as it passed close to the black hole on May 19 at a speed in excess of 25 million kilometres (15.5 million miles) per hour.

They then calculated its velocity and position using a number of instruments and compared it with predictions made by Einstein that the light would be stretched by the gravity in an effect called gravitational redshift. Newtonian physics doesn't allow for a redshift.

"The results are perfectly in line with the theory of general relativity" and are "a major breakthrough towards better understanding the effects of intense gravitational fields," said the research team, whose findings are published in Friday's issue of Astronomy & Astrophysics.

This is the first time observers have been able to measure such an effect.

Sensitive

The European Southern Observatory, whose Very Large Telescope in Chile was used to make the observations, had watched S2 pass by Sagittarius A\* in 2016 but the instruments it was using then were not sensitive enough to detect the gravitational redshift.

"More than 100 years after he published his paper setting out the equations of general relativity, Einstein has been proved right once more - in a much more extreme laboratory than he could have possibly imagined," said the ESO in a statement.

Astronomers already use another effect predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity - that a black hole can bend passing light. Called gravitational lensing, researchers have used it to peer behind black holes.

Astronomers hope they can make practical use of the latest confirmation of Einstein's theory to track shifts in S2's trajectory due to gravity, which could yield information on mass distribution around the black hole.

"I am always blown away by Einstein's predictions, by the power of his reasoning which yielded this theory and which has never been faulted," French astrophysicist Guy Perrin, a member of the GRAVITY consortium, told AFP.

Partnering with the Max Planck Institute in the consortium were French research institute CNRS, the Paris Observatory and several French universities along with Portugal's CENTRA astrophysics centre.



A child in costume attends a class by artist and activist Emerson Munduruku, who teaches environmental conservation through his drag queen alter ego character Uyra Sodoma, at the Sustainable Reserve of Anavilhanas in the state of Amazonas in northern Brazil, on July 21. Emerson's drag character requires two hours of preparation and all the materials he uses are collected from nature - never using the same costume twice. He's a descendant of the Munduruku indigenous tribe from the Brazilian Amazon and travels to remote communities to teach children about the importance of the environment. (AFP)



Creagh



Tsagarakis

Discovery

**UK heat-related deaths to treble:** Premature deaths from heatwaves in Britain could more than treble to around 7,000 a year by mid-century if the government does not take action, a committee of lawmakers said on Thursday.

The warning is topical as Britain swelters in a heatwave, with temperatures of 32-34 degrees Celsius possible in southern and eastern England this week, according to the UK Met Office.

The lawmakers called on the government to develop a strategy to protect the health of the elderly in periods of extreme heat.

In August 2003, a 10-day heatwave across Europe was thought to be the warmest for up to 500 years. The heatwave led to more than 20,000 deaths across Europe, including 15,000 in France alone and 2,193 in Britain.

The highest temperature in Britain was recorded at 38.5 degrees Celsius. A similar heatwave occurred in July 2006 and there have been periods of unusually hot weather or heatwaves in July 2013, July 2015, July-September 2016, June 2017, April 2018 and June-July 2018.

The government is failing to address the danger of heatwaves, the committee warned.

"Heatwave warnings are welcomed as barbecue alerts but they threaten health, wellbeing and productivity," said **Mary Creagh**, chair of the committee. (RTRS)

■ ■ ■

**Centauro hopes to play role:** Centauro the robot, with four legs, a short torso and two upper arms, edges forward with Tai chi-like grace before lowering its arms, lifting up a six kg block and effortlessly moving it out of the way.

The robot, modelled on the mythical centaur, has been developed by researchers at the IIT-Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (Italian Institute of Technology), in the hope that it may one day play a vital role in disaster relief efforts.

Like the fabled creature, it has a humanoid-like upper section with two arms able to manipulate and move objects, while the quadrupedal lower half is capable of robust locomotion on uneven terrain.

Standing 1.5 metres tall and weighing in

Space

Poor planning, lack of funds: experts

US 'Mars 2030s' in doubt

TAMPA, July 26, (AFP) - The United States has vowed to send the first humans to Mars by the 2030s, but space experts and lawmakers on Wednesday expressed concern that poor planning and lack of funds will delay those plans.

President Donald Trump has touted a goal of sending Americans to the Moon again for the first time since the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 1970s, building a lunar gateway to test the technology and spacecraft that will carry humans to Mars.

At a hearing in Washington, Senator Bill Nelson said the White House decision to return to the Moon - a program former president Barack Obama halted in order to focus on reaching Mars - could drag down the whole process.

"We don't want to rob the NASA budget of what is the goal, and the goal is to get to Mars with humans," said Nelson, a Democrat from Florida, which is home to Cape Canaveral and Kennedy Space Center.

"Do these missions help us achieve our goal of getting humans to Mars?" he asked.

**Goals**

In 2009, an independent expert panel known as the Augustine Commission warned that NASA's resources did not match its lofty goals.

With an annual budget of around \$18 billion, NASA would need an extra \$3 billion per year to make it to Mars, it found.

NASA officials have said as recently as this year they are trying to craft a deep space program with far less, using only inflation-based increases in the budget.

And the National Academies of Science has calculated that if NASA's budget continued on its current path, "forget the scenario of getting to Mars by the 2030s. It would take us until 2050," Nelson added.

"I don't think we want to wait that long."

In 2017, Congress's NASA authorization bill required NASA to define and deliver to Congress a step-by-

step plan for reaching Mars.

"We don't have this roadmap yet. It is seven months overdue," Nelson said.

"What gives? Let's see the program for going to Mars and see where all this other fits in."

Testifying at the hearing, Chris Carberry, chief executive of Explore Mars, said international and private partnerships could help the United States make it more affordable to reach Mars.

"Our international partners want us to lead," he told lawmakers.

"But they have concerns that we keep changing directions. They are not sure that we are going to stick with the direction."

Experts

Even more, aerospace experts have identified about a dozen technologies that "we need to start working on pretty much immediately if we have any hope of landing humans on Mars in the 2030s," Carberry added.

These include developing spacecraft that can survive the harsh entry into Mars and land softly enough, as well as the ability to lift people off the surface and head back to Earth.

"Some will take quite awhile to achieve, Carberry said. "We have to start working on them now."

Praising the bipartisan support for NASA he sees among lawmakers, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican who heads the Senate subcommittee on space, said he hopes Congress's next NASA funding bill will lay out a longer term vision, rather than going year to year.

"This next NASA authorization, the hope is that it will reach further and be bolder in its aspirations," he said.

Cruz then asked retired NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson, who has spent a US record of 665 days in space, for her view on what is needed going forward.

"The one most important thing is constancy of purpose," she answered.

"We have to have a vision that lasts more than one administration. We have to have a budget line that will support those goals and objectives that we are trying to reach."

at 93 kgs, the anthropomorphic Centauro is designed to work in man-made environments and manipulate human tools, though with much greater strength.

Its hybrid system combines legged and wheeled mobility, enabling it to navigate in a range of environments.

Centauro has cameras, computer vision sen-



In this July 20 photo, solar panels installed by Tesla, power a community of 12 homes in the mountain town of Las Piedras, Puerto Rico. The homes still do not have power from the national grid, more than 10 months after Hurricane Maria and now is operating exclusively on solar energy. (AP)

sors and a Lidar scanner in its head to help it make sense of the environment and relay information back to its human operators.

The project is led by **Nikos Tsagarakis**, who previously developed the humanoid robot WALK-MAN, and funded by the European Commission and co-ordinated by the University of Bonn in Germany. (RTRS)

■ ■ ■

**EU Court extends GMO rules:** Plants and animals created by new techniques of genetic modification should be treated as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and follow European rules aimed at preventing damage to the environment and health, the EU's top court said on Wednesday.

"The organisms obtained by mutagenesis are GMOs", the European Court of Justice said in a press release, referring to a newly developed technique that allows the development of seed varieties resistant to certain herbicides.

Unlike the best known GMOs, mutagenesis allows the genome of a living species to be altered without the need to insert foreign DNA. Environment groups have demanded the process be given the same treatment under European legislation. (AFP)

Solar

Mallorca upgrades

Tesla, others help P. Ricans go solar

ADJUNTAS, Puerto Rico, July 25, (Agencies) - Ten months after Hurricane Maria, Adjuntas still loses power any time a heavy rain or wind pounds the rickety power lines feeding this town high in the central mountains of Puerto Rico.

That leaves its 20,000 people once again in the dark, without light, fresh water or air conditioning - except for a handful of homes and businesses glowing in the night thanks to solar energy.

The people of Adjuntas call those places "cucubanos," an indigenous Puerto Rican firefly. They're part of a small but growing movement to provide the US territory with sustainable, renewable energy independent of the decrepit power grid.

A scattering of hardware stores, barbershops and corner stores across the island are embracing solar energy, trying to wean themselves off a state-owned power company that remains heavily dependent on imported petroleum. The numbers remain small - a few dozen or hundreds out of millions of power users - but power industry officials and environmentalists are closely watching this as a test of whether Puerto Rico can make a large-scale switch to renewable, off-grid energy.

Currently, renewables represent 4 percent of generation at Puerto Rico's power company, against a US national average of 15 percent, so it likely will be years before solar could account for a significant share of Puerto Rico power.

Even so, "Puerto Rico can be an experimental workshop for solar and wind," Rep **Darren Soto**, a Florida Democrat, said at a congressional hearing Wednesday.

While Adjuntas is dotted with solar-powered islands, a community of 12 homes in the mountain town of Las Piedras still lacks central power and is operating exclusively on solar energy provided by Tesla, the high-tech maker of electric cars and other power products. It installed 160 solar panels on a plot of land owned by resident Jose Santana.

Santana, an electronics technician, said he loves the smartphone app that lets him monitor the solar-charged Tesla batteries. He said the government should consider going solar and dumping the current "archaic" power grid.

"This can pull us out of the mess we're in," he said. "There's nothing wrong with having a vision of the future. It's time to start making changes."

As in Las Piedras, some solar users are relying on corporations and nonprofit groups to donate the expensive equipment. Others have become so exasperated with continuing outages that they are taking it upon themselves to install their own systems.

■ ■ ■



Soto

**Mallorca's green tech future:** Driving along bumpy tracks past ancient, twisted olive trees, farm manager Joe Holles points to a rare black volcano swooping above the mountain as he shows off a wilder side to the Spanish island of Mallorca, best known for sun, sea and sand tourism.

British-born Holles, 34, a resident of Mallorca since he was five, says it costs six to seven times more to produce organic olive oil on terraced land like this, from trees 700 to 800 years old, than using mechanised methods on the flat.

But in recent months, his job on the Son Moragues estate, near the historic village of Valldemossa, has become easier.

The farm has worked with Palma-based startup IOTLABS to set up a wireless system that gathers data about air and water conditions, as well as the comings and goings of vehicles and sheep on its land, about 420 metres (1,378 ft) above sea level.

"Up here, everything is much more difficult, so a bit of help from technology like this makes all the difference," Holles told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We feel like we have doubled the workforce with just a few sensors."

The devices, configured by IOTLABS, convey information via a "Low Power, Wide Area" network called LoRaWAN that connects battery-operated "things" to the internet.

Data is relayed cheaply via an antenna and radio frequency, and fed into an online dashboard.

At Son Moragues, whose olive oil sells in London's Selfridges and other high-end stores, the Internet of Things (IoT) helps curb water loss if a tank springs a leak by automatically closing taps, Holles said.



# Chalamet keeps scuzzy underworld drama alive

By Owen Gleiberman

Imagine a wistful hooking-up-on-the-boardwalk coming-of-age film, set on Cape Cod during the long hot summer of 1991, starring Timothee chalamet in a variation on the passively precocious owl-eyed dreamer he played in “Call Me by Your Name.” Now imagine a scuzzy underworld drama that takes that same Chalamet character, in all his hooded sensual innocence, and turns him into a pot-dealing version of Mark Wahlberg in “Boogie Nights”: a cold hard opportunist who gets hooked on the life.

Put them together and you have “Hot Summer Nights,” a weirdly “romantic” drug drama that wastes no time burning plausibility to the ground. Yet even when it does, the actors keep it alive (sort of). Still, you can’t stop wondering if the first-time writer-director, Elijah Bynum, who has a talent for atmosphere, meant for us to actually take the story on the level. If so, it was a miscalculation. He has made what feels like a “Miami Vice” episode ripped out of some sensitive and nostalgic teen dude’s diary.

Chalamet’s Daniel Middleton starts off as an awkward, alienated, asthmatic loner who sits around in his bedroom drinking in the forlorn strains of Linda Ronstadt’s “Long, Long Time.” He is sent off to spend the summer with his aunt in Hyannis, where he’s an odd boy out, caught between the townies and a village of slumming tourists. But then he meets the two most beautiful people in town: Hunter Strawberry (Alex Roe), a pot dealer in a red Mustang who swaggers into a party looking like a brooding grease-monkey version of James Dean; and Hunter’s estranged sister, McKayla (Maika Monroe), who with her cutoffs and come-hither pout is the most coveted girl around. It’s

Daniel’s destiny to win and betray both of them.

All of which might be more believable if the film didn’t present Daniel, in the early scenes, as a geek who doesn’t know how to talk to girls and can barely hold onto his cup. That said, Chalamet makes geeky captivating. When he meets Hunter, a loser-stud who fell into the pot-salesman game and now can’t imagine doing anything else, he charms him with his quick brain and becomes his assistant.

That you can buy.

## Transformation

What we can’t buy is Daniel’s overnight transformation into a hustler who insists on taking Hunter’s business to the next level. “Hot Summer Nights” was shot just before “Call Me by Your Name,” and it spent some time on the fabled Black List of ostensibly hot unproduced screenplays. Yet the joke of the movie is that a first-rate script is exactly what it doesn’t have. Bynum has made a half-baked, beyond-the-law “Adventureland” that keeps cutting corners, and never begins to explain how Daniel could have the moxie, the contacts, and the underworld acumen to transition from being a pot dealer’s wide-eyed beanpole lackey, hawking dime bags to tourists and locals, to becoming a sharp-edged drug salesman moving product in bulk form.

Yet Chalamet is such a good actor that he demonstrates how, in a movie that did explain it, you might buy him as a flyweight criminal opportunist. Chalamet has dark eyes and eyebrows that dance in his pale thin face, focusing his intensity, but more than that he has a quality of heartlessness that will take him far. I don’t mean that he doesn’t possess heart — only that he has the ability to be magnetically self-directed and even cruel, which is an element of what any true star needs.

(He drew on those qualities in “Lady Bird.”) When he’s in broken-geek mode, it’s hard to believe that someone like McKayla would waste a second glance on him, but Chalamet gives Daniel the fumbling sexiness and surly instinct to break through her defenses.

They spend a romantic summer together, even as Daniel, in his other life, is making serious drug money. But here, once again, comes the schlock factor: The movie depicts Hyannis as the sort of small town where everyone knows everyone else’s business — but somehow, despite the youth-gossip grapevine, we’re supposed to accept that Hunter, with his street smarts, and McKayla, the most plugged-in girl around, could spend the entire summer without knowing that Daniel is involved with either of them.

Hunter, at a house party in Boston, pistol-whips a drug salesman to within an inch of his life, and we think, “What’s he going to do to Daniel when he learns his sister is sleeping with him?” The film sets up this old-style sexual conflict only to let it wither away. Yet Alex Roe gives an expert performance as the doomed Hunter; he’s tense, poised, suffused with a bad-boy awareness that his life of dealing can only crash and burn. He comes closer than anyone in the film to creating an organically believable character.

There’s not much early-’90s atmosphere in “Hot Summer Nights,” apart from “Terminator 2: Judgment Day” playing at the local drive-in. Bynum stages a good scene with a cocaine dealer, played by the always inventive William Fichtner, that exposes the film’s “Boogie Nights” pretensions. He also stages a lot of moonlit canoodling between Daniel and McKayla that’s meant to tug at our hearts, though the film loses its pulse in these scenes. Maybe that’s because McKayla is more a male dream than a fully fledged character. Like the rest of “Hot Summer Nights,” she’s a fantasy pretending to be real. (RTRS)

## Variety



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows (from left), Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson, Tom Cruise and Ving Rhames in a scene from ‘Mission: Impossible — Fallout.’ (AP)

## Film

Cruise thwarts the apocalypse on broken ankle

# ‘Fallout’ ridiculously entertaining

By Jocelyn Noveck

And so, fellow moviegoers: Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what Tom Cruise can — and will — do for you.

The answer is anything. The man will do anything to entertain you. At age 56, when the rest of us are making chiropractor appointments and upping our corrective lenses, Cruise will jump out of a plane for you, into a lightning storm. He’ll learn to fly a helicopter for you, all for one nausea-inducing helicopter piloting stunt — yep, he’s piloting AND acting — that sends him into a death spiral in “Mission: Impossible — Fallout.”

It should go without saying that Cruise will hang off a sheer cliff for you. Oh, also: he will dangle off a rope from a helicopter, then bungee jump off it for you.

And finally, Cruise will shatter his ankle jumping from one building to another for you — and then sprint like hell on that broken ankle. Because, what’s an MI film without a Cruise sprint?

One day, if this continues, it will surely seem silly. One day, people will chuckle sympathetically at the exploits of this well-meaning but wrinkled movie star, perhaps in his 80s then, putting his life in danger to please his fans. Now, though, is not that day. With his partner, returning director-writer Christopher McQuarrie, Cruise delivers all the above in the ridiculously entertaining “Fallout,” his sixth outing as Ethan Hunt.

As for the plot, well, you may chuckle in confusion. It gets unnecessarily complicated. For most movies, this would be a much bigger problem. But because “Fallout” moves so quickly from one crazy stunt to another, it doesn’t matter. You’ll think, “Hmm, what?” But then, “Whoa! Is Tom about to jump off that building?”

We begin, as always, with a new mission — this time, it arrives in a hollowed-out copy of Homer’s “Odys-

sey,” perhaps a reference to Hunt’s own journey. We’ll try to boil it down: The evildoers are the Apostles, terrorists who aim to nuke the world’s top religious sites — the Vatican, Jerusalem and Makkah — and bring on an apocalypse. They’re in league with Solomon Lane (Sean Harris), the criminal mastermind from the last film, who stayed alive and now wants revenge against Hunt, not to mention the global destruction thing.

Hunt must get his hands on three missing plutonium cores. He actually manages this, for a second — but has to give them up to save a cherished team member. Thus is launched an overarching dilemma of this installment: Should Hunt save one life that is dear to him over millions of others?

## Balance

We don’t get much time to ponder. Hunt has to start from scratch. His IMF team includes, as always, loyal Luther (Ving Rhames), and tech whiz Benji (the wonderful Simon Pegg), who provides needed levity. It’s safe to say that never before has Benji’s life hung so precariously in the balance.

IMF secretary Alan Hunley (Alec Baldwin) is back, clashing with Erika Sloane (Angela Bassett), certainly the most stylish person ever to head the CIA, onscreen or off. Sloane forcibly injects her own agent, the very handsome but shady Walker (Henry Cavill), into Hunt’s operation, causing all sorts of complications.

Crucially, we also have former M16 agent Ilsa Faust (Rebecca Ferguson, who made such an impression in the last film). She’s back, but working for whom, exactly? Regardless, it’s fun to watch her take down a succession of brutish men. A welcome newcomer is Vanessa Kirby (“The Crown”) as the mysterious White Widow.

Of course, it’s the stunts that really matter. And the

scenery. Paris has always been beautiful, but there’s a certain frisson you get when arriving with Cruise by way of a plummet from a plane onto the roof of the Grand Palais. And that motorcycle chase around the Arc de Triomphe? Let’s just say that getting through that traffic circle alive on a real-life day is a Mission: Impossible.

Then we’re off to London, where Cruise shattered his ankle bone filming a rooftop chase. At a recent screening, McQuarrie explained that most of what we see the actor doing here, including that sprint, was done after the injury. Feel free to consider that as you watch.

The most dramatic stunts were filmed in New Zealand, standing in for Kashmir. Many people go bungee-jumping there; probably relatively few do it from a moving helicopter. We also see Cruise piloting another helicopter into a seemingly irreversible plunge. A climactic physical fight was shot in Norway, on a cliff that drops into a fjord. And Cruise’s 25,000-foot jump from a plane was filmed in Abu Dhabi.

## Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Tom Cruise’s mission, should he choose to accept it, is to steal the box office crown.

Paramount’s “Mission: Impossible — Fallout” looks to easily win the weekend, where the franchise’s sixth installment is eyeing a North American debut between \$50 million and \$65 million.

Stellar reviews could help “Fallout” land a series-best domestic launch. That title currently belongs to “Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation,” which opened with \$55.5 million in 2015. The highest-grossing iteration is “Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol” (\$694.7 million), followed by “Rogue Nation” (\$682.7 million), and Mission: Impossible 2” (\$546.4 million). Combined, the series has earned over \$2.7 billion globally. (Agencies)

**LOS ANGELES:** Sony Animation has signed “Hotel Transylvania” director **Genndy Tartakovsky** for a pair of projects — the R-rated comedy “Fixed” and the adventure movie “Black Knight.”

“Genndy is one of the most singular voices in animation today and we are overjoyed to have him develop his next original features at Sony Pictures Animation, where he began his theatrical career nearly a decade ago,” said **Kristine Belson**, president of Sony Pictures Animation. “His imagination and talent have no boundaries, which will be made abundantly clear by the two wildly different movies he’ll be directing next.” (RTRS)

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**LOS ANGELES:** “Longmire” star **Bailey Chase** is set to star in the Netflix dramatic feature “Walk. Ride. Rodeo,” which shoots in **Santa Fe, N.M.**, next month.

The independent film tells the true story of **Amberley Snyder**, an 18-year-old nationally ranked barrel racer who was paralyzed in a car accident, but with the support of her family, physical therapy, and inspiring determination, fights to earn back her place in the sport that she loves. Chase portrays Snyder’s father. Poke Prod Entertainment will also produce. (RTRS)

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**LOS ANGELES:** **James Franco** is in negotiations to direct the movie “Those Guys Have All the Fun: Inside the World of ESPN” for Focus Features.

The project is based on the 2011 book of the same name by **James Andrew Miller** and **Tom Shales**, which recapped the formation of the sports network, based on interviews with more than 500 people. ESPN was launched in 1979 by **Bill Rasmussen** and his son **Scott** as the world’s first 24-hour cable TV network. It saw success by telecasting the early rounds of the NCAA basketball tournament and the NFL Draft.

“Halt and Catch Fire” co-cre-

ator **Christopher C. Rogers** has been hired to re-write the script. Miller was tapped to adapt the script in 2015. **Michael De Luca**, **Jamie Patricof**, and **Julie Yorn** are producing the film. (RTRS)

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**LOS ANGELES:** New documentary “Carmines Street Guitars” will have its world premier at the Ven-



Bailey Chase



James Franco

ice Film Festival. The **Ron Mann**-directed film chronicles a week in the life of **Greenwich Village** guitar maker **Rick Kelly** and his apprentice **Cindy Hulej**. Kelly’s method is unique: he builds his guitars out of wood salvaged from old **New York City** buildings constructed in the 1800s or as he calls it, “the bones of old New York.” Artists like **Lou Reed** and

**Bob Dylan** have owned Kelly’s guitars, which feature parts taken from such iconic **Manhattan** locales as the Hotel Chelsea and Chumley’s pub.

The docu brings musicians of all stripes — including **Patti Smith Band’s Lenny Kaye**, **Kirk Douglas** of The Roots, **Jamie Hince** of The Kills, **Bill Frisell**, **Nels Cline** of Wilco,

**Marc Ribot**, **Ester Baling**, **Dallas** and **Travis Good** of The Sadies and Dylan six-stringer **Charlie Sexton** — to the shop. Filmmaker **Jim Jarmusch** also makes an appearance for a quick guitar repair, and was responsible for the film’s conception, in a way. “This movie was really made thanks to Jim Jarmusch,” Mann tells Variety. (RTRS)



People & Places

Film

Fonda on ‘9 to 5’ sequel

Locarno tackles shift in storytelling norms

LOS ANGELES, July 26, (Agencies): Having disrupted film financing and distribution models, global streaming platforms are now subverting storytelling preconceptions.

That, in short, is latest shakeup prompted by the ongoing seismic shift and one of challenges that European indie-film industry executives will be thrashing out during this year’s StepIn think tank, titled Brave New World, Aug 2 at the Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland.

Now its sixth edition, StepIn is an informal event at which top execs share their experiences, get inspired and brainstorm new ideas. Similar to last year, the core of the conversation will be the future of independent production and the theatrical experience in the digital age.



Murphy

But, as StepIn project manager Marcello Paolillo points out, aside from changes brought about in the business by technology, box-office results over the past couple of years paint a picture that undermines basic tenets that have been assumed for decades, “revealing audience segments that have been dismissed and underestimated for way too long,” he says.

According to Paolillo, “perhaps the future of the theatrical experience also depends on a better knowledge and understanding of our society.”

The Black List founder Franklin Leonard, who has long had his thumb on the pulse of screenwriting coming out of Hollywood, says the notion that constraints dictate parameters of movie narratives are starting to change.

“There’s a lot of conventional wisdom in Hollywood, about what works and what doesn’t; that’s all convention and no wisdom,” says Leonard, recruited by Paolillo as a StepIn keynote speaker.

However, Leonard notes, the recent global success of blockbusters such as “Wonder Woman” and “Black Panther,” “enabled by people who had to fight twice as hard,” have started to lead some studio people “to re-evaluate their conventional wisdom and recognize it for the sexist, racist garbage that it is.” The process is happening too slowly, he adds.

Leonard, who after advocating Hollywood’s best unproduced screenplays for years recently became a producer, doesn’t think American audiences have changed.

It’s just that “for the entire history of Hollywood, the industry has been absolutely terrible at understanding who the audience is, and what they actually wanted,” he says, citing disproven long-time assumptions that female-driven action films were not viable in the commercial marketplace and that audiences outside the US weren’t interested in seeing black people on screen — despite **Eddie Murphy**’s “Coming to America” and Martin Lawrence’s “Big Momma’s House” franchise scoring big overseas paydays.

Leonard says Netflix is the biggest game-changer when it comes to representing the reality and the culture that’s out there. The streamer has its detractors within the European indie film community — as its recent exclusion from Cannes made clear — though its opponents tend to be the ancien regime.

He cites “Nanette,” Australian comedian Hannah Gadsby’s groundbreaking Netflix special, “as probably the most important hour of standup ever done,” pointing out that “if you had made something like that” five years ago “there is no distribution plan that would have allowed more than a million people to see it” whereas, via Netflix, it went global with a keystroke.

Leonard considers the algorithms and big-data analytics known to factor into how Netflix execs greenlight projects to be a positive.

Help

“It doesn’t mean that you are feeding a script into a computer and getting an answer on whether or not the movie should be made,” he says. “I think there is an opportunity for data to help guard against our biases, be they sexist, racist, whatever.”

Embracing technology is clearly becoming increasingly crucial for survival in all aspects of the indie film business.

Having “an insight into what will be technically possible two or three years from now, and what it will mean for the platform you are working for as a buyer, or producing for as a producer ... should be part of market knowledge for everyone in the film business,” says Matthijs Wouter Knol, director of the Berlin Film Festival’s European Film Market, also a StepIn keynote speaker. Instead, “there is a big fear of technology across the industry.”

Knol, who will be chairing a StepIn roundtable called the Role of Film Markets in This New Landscape, says the EFM has been introducing 10 European tech startups each year that provide tools and services in the fields of distribution, production, marketing and more to film companies at the Berlin market.

Also:

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif:** Jane Fonda said she’s still confronted by Vietnam War veterans over her 1970s anti-war activism and welcomes the encounters.

Such moments provide an opportunity to talk, she said, which needs to be done with what Fonda called “an open mind and a soft heart.”

The actress drew bitter criticism after being photographed atop an anti-aircraft gun during a controversial 1972 visit to North Vietnam. Meeting with TV critics Wednesday to discuss a new HBO documentary on her life, she expressed regret for that moment.

She said it was thoughtless to perch on the gun and called it “horrible” to think about the message her action sent to soldiers and their families, she said.

It was an earlier meeting with US soldiers in Paris that sparked her activism, Fonda said. Her belief that America always fought on “the side of the angels” was shaken by what she heard and later read.

At age 80, Fonda looks back at her life in HBO’s “Jane Fonda in Five Acts,” from director-producer Susan Lacy and debuting this fall. Fonda continues to work, starring opposite **Lily Tomlin** on the Netflix series “Grace and Frankie” and working with Tomlin and **Dolly Parton** on a sequel to their hit 1980 movie “9 to 5.”



US-Ukrainian actress Mila Kunis (left) and US actress Kate McKinnon arrive for the premiere of Lionsgate’s ‘The Spy Who Dumped Me’ at the Fox Village Theater in Los Angeles, California on July 25. (AFP)

Film

Women directors nearly shut out from competition

Venice lineup heavy on award hopefuls

LOS ANGELES, July 26, (RTRS): New works from the Coen brothers, Paul Greengrass and Alfonso Cuaron are set to world-premiere at the Venice Film Festival, part of an impressive lineup that is heavy on award hopefuls, embraces Netflix wholeheartedly and promises high-wattage star power on the Lido.

Venice artistic director Alberto Barbera unveiled six Netflix originals on the festival’s slate at a news conference in Rome on Wednesday, saying that “we cannot refuse to come to terms with the reality of the new production landscape.” Titles from the streaming giant include Joel and Ethan Coen’s new Western, “The Ballad of Buster Scruggs”; Greengrass’ “22 July” (formerly titled “Norway”), about the 2011 terrorist attack in and around Oslo that killed 77 people; Cuaron’s “Roma,” the Oscar-winning director’s return to Spanish-language filmmaking; and the restoration and completion of Orson Welles’ unfinished “The Other Side of the Wind.”

Besides the Netflix films, the lineup for Venice’s 75th edition features prestige projects from both traditional Hollywood studios and indie players, and confirms the festival’s now-strong reputation as an important awards-season springboard. Multiple-Oscar-winners “Gravity,” “Spotlight” and “The Shape of Water” all launched from the Lido in recent years.

As previously revealed by Variety, Universal’s “First Man,” directed by Damien Chazelle and starring Ryan Gosling as astronaut Neil Armstrong, will open the festival Aug 29. Warner Bros’ remake of “A Star Is Born,” directed by and starring Bradley Cooper alongside Lady Gaga, will also world-premiere in Venice, out of competition.

“First Man” and “A Star Is Born” lead a robust US contingent that includes Mel Gibson-Vince Vaughn police brutality movie “Dragged Across Concrete” (out of competition), directed by S. Craig Zahler, vfrom Lionsgate, and competition title “Vox Lux,” in which Natalie Portman plays a turn-of-the-century pop star, directed by Brady Corbet, from indie Bold Films.

Julian Schnabel’s “At Eternity’s Gate” stars Willem Dafoe as Vincent van Gogh, and represents an attempt to get inside the tortured painter’s head, Barbera said.

Other titles from the US include French helmer Jacques Audiard’s English-language debut, “The Sister Brothers,” a darkly comic Western starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Joaquin Phoenix; and Yorgos Lanthimos’ period piece “The Favourite,” with Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz. “The Favourite,” set in 18th-century England and laced with the signature black humor of the Greek filmmaker of “The Lobster” and “The Killing of a Sacred Deer,” is

from Fox Searchlight.

Amazon Studios is launching Luca Guadagnino’s grisly remake of suspense classic “Suspiria,” starring Tilda Swinton and Dakota Johnson. Barbera called it Guadagnino’s most ambitious film yet.

Netflix was the big winner among the new players with its six selected titles, in stark contrast to its shutout from Cannes because of an ongoing dispute over its films’ lack of theatrical release in France.

The Coen brothers’ “Buster Scruggs” was originally conceived as a TV series but has been turned into an episodic film starring Tim Blake Nelson, James Franco and Liam Neeson. It was produced for Netflix by Megan Ellison’s Annapurna Pictures. “Roma,” a black-and-white film from “Gravity” director Cuaron, is an autobiographical family drama set in 1970s Mexico City. Greengrass’ “22 July” focuses on the bombings and shootings carried out by a Norwegian right-wing extremist, whose victims were mostly teenagers.

Welles’ “The Other Side of the Wind” stars John Huston and Peter Bogdanovich. The unfinished project about a movie director on the comeback trail first went into production nearly half a century ago. A Netflix documentary on Welles, “They’ll Love Me When I’m Dead,” is also screening as a special event.

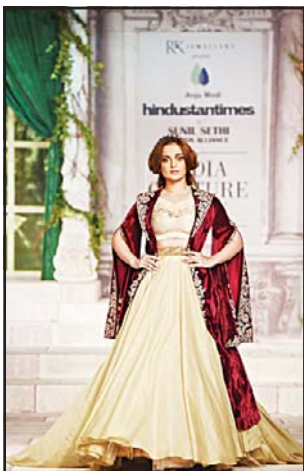
And the streaming service’s “Sulla Mia Pelle” (which translates as “On My Skin”), by Italian director Alessio Cremonini, opens the Horizons sidebar.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** For the second year in a row, only one out of the 21 competition titles at the upcoming Venice Film Festival is directed by a woman: **Jennifer Kent**’s “The Nightingale.” But while pledging to try to do more to boost female representation, artistic director **Alberto Barbera** said Wednesday that he would quit if a quota were imposed on the world’s oldest film fest.

“I’m going to say this a bit bluntly: The day in which I had to choose a film solely because it’s made by a woman I would change jobs,” Barbera said after unveiling the lineup for the 75th edition of the festival.

He acknowledged that female-directed films on the roster “are definitely a minority” — 15 out of about 70 officially selected titles — but blamed the scarcity on the low number of submissions. Although Barbera and **Paolo Baratta**, president of the festival’s parent organization, the Venice Biennale, are still examining the numbers, they estimated that only about 21% of the 1,650 submitted feature films were directed by women.



Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut presents a creation by Indian designer Anju Modi during the India Couture Week 2018 in New Delhi on July 25. (AFP)



Goldblum



Garner

Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** The premiere episode of “Castle Rock,” the **Stephen King**-inspired original series from **J.J. Abrams**, will be available for free exclusively to US users on the Apple TV App — with no Hulu subscription required.

The “Castle Rock” series premiere will be available on the Apple TV App exclusively for two weeks, starting Wednesday (July 25). It’s the first time any network or streaming service is debuting an episode on the Apple TV App in front of any paywalls.

Hulu is using a “sampling” strategy in the exclusive deal with Apple, in the hopes that the freebie first episode will spur people to sign up for Hulu to watch the rest of the 10-episode anthology series. (RTRS)

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**LOS ANGELES:** National Geographic announced several new shows during the TCA summer press tour on Wednesday.

First, Nat Geo and **Jeff Goldblum** have partnered on a new docu-series titled “The Curiosity of Jeff Goldblum.” The twelve-part half-hour series follows Goldblum on an investigation of the world’s most extraordinary “ordinary” things. He will get to the bottom of how we got them, how we make them and how they continue to impact our daily lives, as each journey of discovery has surprising connections, turns and revelations.

The series is produced by National Geographic Studios. **Brian Lovett** is executive producer.

Next, Nat Geo has also greenlit “Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted.” Produced by his own Studio Ramsay, the celebrity

chef will embark on anthropology-through-cuisine expeditions to unearth the most incredible people, places and flavors the world has to offer. The series will premiere globally in 2019 on National Geographic in 171 countries and 43 languages, with Studio Ramsay/All3 Media

retaining rights in the remaining international territories. Production is set to begin this fall. (RTRS)

☐ ☐ ☐

**LOS ANGELES:** “Camping” was a draw for stars **Jennifer Garner** and **David Tennant** even though

neither of them are particularly avid about roughing it outdoors.

“This is the best way to camp,” Tennant told reporters on Wednesday during HBO’s portion of the summer Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills. “You get to go home at night and have a shower . . . I assumed I

would hate camping. I do quite like home comfort and a shower and not smelling. These things are important.”

The eight-episode limited series is based on a British comedy of the same name created by **Julia Davis**. The “Girls” duo of **Jenni Konner** and **Lena Dunham** wrote and directed the series. For all involved, “Camping” was a fun and frothy diversion from more cerebral and intense material they’ve tackled of late.

“You can only play so many psychopaths without taking it home,” Tennant said. “It was lovely to play someone so sweet and open-hearted.”

“Camping” also marks Garner’s return to series TV since her 2001-2006 run on ABC’s “Alias.” The appeal of “Camping” was all about the writing, she said.

Garner plays a controlling woman who organizes a weekend camping trip with friends to celebrate her husband’s (played by Tennant) 45th birthday.

“Being in a scene with David and saying, ‘Do you want me to have a dysfunctional pelvic floor for the whole of your birthday weekend,’” Garner said. “Who gets to say this?” (RTRS)



This photo shows Donald Trump’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame that was vandalized on July 25, in Los Angeles. (AP)

Trump’s H’wood star vandalized

LOS ANGELES, July 26, (AP): President Donald Trump’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame was destroyed before dawn Wednesday, and a man was later arrested.

Austin Clay, 24, was held for investigation of felony vandalism, the Los Angeles Police Department said.

The vandalism was reported around 3:30 a.m. A pickax was found at the scene on Hollywood Boulevard.



Music

Celebrations of arts

Kennedy Center Honors for ‘Hamilton’ and Cher

WASHINGTON, July 26, (Agencies): Cher, composer Phillip Glass, country music star **Reba McEntire** and jazz legend Wayne Shorter will be honored for lifetime achievements in the arts at this year’s Kennedy Center Honors.

The national arts center also announced Wednesday a special award for the genre-bending musical “Hamilton,” as part of the gala set for Dec 2.

Before last year’s program, several honorees threatened a boycott if President Trump attended. He and First Lady Melania Trump decided to skip the event “to allow the honorees to celebrate without any political distraction,” as the White House put it.

The White House said it’s too early to know whether Trump will participate in this year’s ceremony. Trump may attend the Group of 20 summit in Argentina, which ends Dec 1.



McEntire

Glass said he hopes Trump does show up as a conciliatory gesture to the arts community. “If he were to come, it would represent a real broadening of his perspective,” Glass said. “American arts really is our biggest contribution to the world, far more than our politics.”

Last year, the Kennedy Center’s president, Deborah F. Rutter, publicly thanked Trump for allowing the night to focus solely on the arts and the honorees. But she also said she hoped to see the president attend in the future.

“I always hope that the person in that office makes a point of showing as much support for American arts and culture as his predecessors did and as his successors will,” Rutter said in an interview.

Contemporary

The “Hamilton” honor marks a first-time honor for a specific piece of art, and a first for a contemporary work. The award will go to the four main creators of the musical: writer and actor Lin-Manuel Miranda, director Thomas Kail, choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler and music director Alex Lacamoire.

The musical is playing at the Kennedy Center through mid-September.

“This work has had such a huge impact in such a short time. It not only changed the way that people think about art, it changed the way they think about history and the storytelling of history,” said Rutter, who didn’t think awards like this would become regular events. “We felt it was important to honor it in real time and not 30 years in the future.”

The four men said in a statement that the honor was “humbling beyond our wildest expectations for our show.”

One of the special aspects of the Kennedy Center program is that each recipient is given a personalized introduction and performance by participants kept secret from the honoree.

McEntire has served as one of those surprises for four past honorees: Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn, Lily Tomlin and Carol Burnett.

“When the curtain went up, I could see the surprise in their eyes,” she said. “I can’t wait to see who they come up with for me.”

The Kennedy Center Honors traditionally take place in the presence of the president but Trump, despised by many cultural and entertainment figures, skipped the gala evening last year.

The 2018 edition looks unlikely to be any different as both “Hamilton” creator Miranda and Cher are vociferous critics of Trump.

“Hamilton,” a production of which recently opened at the Kennedy Center, is still one of the hottest tickets on Broadway, years after its 2015 premiere.

The musical tells the story of Alexander Hamilton and fellow founding fathers of the United States — but through the lens of modern, multiethnic America, with rap and hip-hop numbers mixed in with more traditional show tunes. The Kennedy Center said in a statement that it was recognizing the “trailblazing creators of a transformative work that defies category.”

“This year’s slate of honorees represents the pinnacle of our nation’s originality and the rich mosaic of diverse perspectives and art forms that has come to define who we are as a people,” Kennedy Center president Deborah Rutter said.

The 81-year-old Glass, generally considered the foremost living US composer, earlier this year made his performance debut at the Kennedy Center, testing himself by appearing as a pianist.

Cher, 72, is the former half of folk duo Sonny and Cher, who has transformed herself into a concert-packing pop performer and Oscar-winning actress.

She holds the record for the longest gap between number-one songs on the US chart at nearly 25 years, and is currently starring in a sequel to the ABBA film musical “Mamma Mia!” Shorter, 84, performed with Miles Davis and went on to become a leading bandleader and improviser on both soprano and tenor saxophone, including with his group Weather Report.

McEntire became a top country star in the 1980s, originally with a sound that blended pop and gradually with a more traditional sound.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Award-winning composer **Hans Zimmer** will deliver a keynote address at the VIEW Conference in **Turin, Italy**, in October. In addition to Zimmer, the conference has also lined up Cartoon Saloon’s **Nora Twomey**, director of last year’s Academy Award-nominated animated film “The Breadwinner.”

Zimmer has amassed a collection of awards including an Oscar for his work on “The Lion King,” two Golden Globes (“The Lion King” and “Gladiator”) and four Grammys (two for “The Lion King” plus wins for “Crimson Tide” and “The Dark Knight”). He received a Stephen Hawking Medal for his work on “Interstellar” and has more than 100 other awards and even more nominations across a number of organizations. His work can be heard in some of the biggest film and TV projects around the world. He was most recently nominated for an Oscar for his “Dunkirk” original score.

He is one of the most sought-after composers in Hollywood and is a renowned concert performer. Zimmer toplined a live music tour in 2017, which was the subject of the concert film “Live in Prague.” He is currently working on Disney’s live-action version of “The Lion King.” Zimmer’s keynote topic has not yet been revealed.

“We are so excited to welcome this amazingly versatile composer to our VIEW family,” says VIEW Conference director **Dr Maria Elena Gutierrez**. “Hans Zimmer is one of Hollywood’s most innovative talents. His keynote address will be inspiring and entertaining.”

Twomey, a partner in Irish animation house Cartoon Saloon, will come to the VIEW Conference as “The Breadwinner” continues to rack up awards and recognition around the world.

out of the blues BOZ SCAGGS



This cover image released by Concord Records shows ‘Out of the Blues,’ a release by Boz Scaggs. (AP)



Singer Fher Olvera of Mexican rock band Mana performs during a concert at the Starlite Music Festival in Marbella on July 25. (AFP)

Music

‘Selena for Sanctuary’

Scaggs revisits roots

By Pablo Gorondi

**Boz Scaggs, “Out of the Blues”** (Concord Records)

Sometimes with more gloss, at times with more grit, but always with great feeling, Boz Scaggs has kept some form of the blues close to the surface during most of his career, which has already sailed past the 50-year milestone.

On “Out of the Blues,” the last of an informal trilogy also including “Memphis” and “A Fool to Care” revisiting his roots and influences, Scaggs covers some superior blues tunes from decades past, along with a Neil Young song and originals by long-time collaborator Jack Walroth.

Unlike its two predecessors, “Out of the Blues” was produced by Scaggs instead of Steve Jordan, but some of the musicians from the earlier releases are back, including bassist Willie Weeks and guitarist Ray Parker Jr, topped up with additions including Jim Keltner (drums), Jim Cox (keys) and a lefty-righty combo of Texas six-stringers, Doyle Bramhall II and Charlie Sexton.

Walroth’s “Rock and Stick” has shades of soul and Andy Summers’ echoing guitar, with Scaggs’ falsetto emphasizing the emotions, while “I’ve Just Got to Forget You” — associated with Bland — is pure regret and heart-break. Jimmy McCracklin’s “I’ve Just Got to Know,” based here on the magnetic Magic Sam version — deals with a step earlier in the relationship, even if the writing’s on the wall.

“Little Miss Night and Day,” a hardboiled rocker with solos from Cox, Bramhall and Sexton, is Scaggs’

only songwriting credit, shared with Walroth, whose grooves fit right in with the rest of the repertoire. Scaggs sounds aptly fatigued on Young’s “On the Beach,” which features great guitar work by Bramhall and a disillusionment with fame that sometimes even an everyman can empathize with: “Though my problems are meaningless/That don’t make them go away.”

The blues suit Scaggs and thankfully “The Feeling Is Gone” is just the last song on the album, not a reflection of his performances.

□ □ □

The music of Selena will be used to entertain and educate during a free concert that is in part designed to raise awareness about the plight of undocumented immigrants facing deportation. Latin Grammy-winners **Mon Laferte** and **Gaby Moreno** are among those performing at “Selena for Sanctuary,” a free concert that’s part of the summer festival Lincoln Center Out of Doors. The concert seeks to raise awareness about the dire situation of undocumented immigrants that has caused a national outcry. “I am very excited to be part of this event,” said Laferte, who is from Chile. “I admire Selena and I grew up singing her songs. It is an honor for me to be able to sing her songs and to support this initiative with a subject like migration, which concerns us all.”

Created by **Doris Munoz**, daughter of undocumented immigrants, “Selena for Sanctuary” pays tribute to the most successful artist in Latin music while fighting for a cause. (AP)

Brown Serenity House. The shelter will also offer a 24-hour crisis intervention line and emergency transitional shelter. (AP)

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**LONDON:** **Paul McCartney** is planning a return to the famous **Liverpool** club credited with being the birthplace of the Beatles.

McCartney is set to take the stage at the Cavern Club for an exclusive performance on Thursday. The Fab Four played at the cellar bar — now located across the street from its original venue — in their early years.

The Beatle dropped a hint about the gig during an appearance on Wednesday at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

He told Pulp frontman **Jarvis Cocker**, who was hosting a question and answer session, that “we have a little secret gig somewhere in Liverpool.” (AP)

Variety

**LOS ANGELES:** Patrick Williams, who was best-known for his Emmy-winning television music but who was also a renowned and Grammy-winning big-band jazz leader and arranger, died Wednesday morning of complications from cancer at St. John’s Hospital in **Santa Monica, Calif.** He was 79.

Williams was among the most versatile composers of his generation, earning an Oscar nomination (for adapting opera in “Breaking Away,” 1979), four Emmys (for dramatic music including “Lou Grant,” 1980) and two Grammys (for arrangements including his classic jazz album “Threshold,” 1974) during more than 50 years of music-making in **New York** and **Los Angeles**. (RTSR)

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**LOS ANGELES:** Hall of Fame quarterback **Jim Kelly** received good news from his doctors on Wednesday.

MRI and CT scans done in a **New York City** hospital were “clear,” his wife, **Jill**, announced on Instagram. She went on to write that doctors found “no evidence” of cancer in a statement posted under a photo of Kelly giving the thumbs up sign.

Last week, the legendary Buffalo Bills quarterback said at his youth football camp in **Pittsford, NY**, that “something came up” in his continuing health battle and that he would be traveling to New York City in August to see his doctors. He apparently moved the appointment to an earlier date. (RTSR)

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**ATLANTA:** Singer **Bobby Brown** will receive a proclamation from a metro-Atlanta



Williams



Brown

Music

Open book

Demi chronicled recovery, relapse

NEW YORK, July 26, (Agencies): While most celebrities tend to hide their struggles with drugs and battles with depression, **Demi Lovato** not only acknowledged her issues, she’s shared them with the world.

Lovato has been an open book since she announced in 2010 that she was checking into a rehabilitation center to deal with an eating disorder, self-mutilation and other issues. Over the next eight years, she became a role model and bona fide pop star, releasing multi-platinum songs and albums that range from playful to serious with lyrical content about her battles with drugs and alcohol.



Lovato

“(She) has found enormous success by addressing those issues, and not only addressing them when they were still fresh, but also continuing to speak about them as she had been sober for years. She’s always kind of keeping it at the forefront ... and showing people that it’s OK to be open about having struggles whether it’s mental health issues, substance abuse (or) body positivity,” said Jason Lipshutz, the editorial director at Billboard. “By opening herself up and sharing herself she has given the signal to a lot of people — either young listeners or adult listeners — that they can do the same.”

“Obviously she’s got an amazing voice and she’s got some great hooks and a lot of hit singles, but I think people really connect with that type of openness,” he added.

Lovato’s representative said in a statement Tuesday that the 25-year-old was awake and recovering with her family after the singer was reportedly hospitalized for an overdose. It came a month after she released a new song called “Sober,” indicating that she relapsed after six years of sobriety.

Suffering

Lovato has chronicled her life and battles throughout the years, from being bullied as a child to suffering from depression. She has said she’s used cocaine before interviews and drank alcohol in the morning out of a soda bottle to mask it. That candor has helped her become a role model for young women and men who have faced their own issues.

Actress Lili Reinhart, who appears in the hit CW Network series “Riverdale,” said she looked up to Lovato.

“When I was 14, she was an idol to me in how she spoke so openly about mental health. And now she continues to inspire thousands of young men and women with her body positivity messages,” the 21-year-old tweeted Tuesday.

In her YouTube documentary, “Demi Lovato, Simply Complicated,” Lovato said at one point she idolized Amy Winehouse, whose seven-year death anniversary was Monday.

The last two years have been Lovato’s biggest in music: “Sorry Not Sorry,” the sassy, punchy pop song, became the entertainer’s biggest hit of her career, peaking at No. 6 on Billboard’s Hot 100 chart and reaching triple-platinum status. Her “Confident” album competed for best pop vocal album at the 2017 Grammys (she lost to Adele’s “25”). Lovato earned praise and more hit songs for her collaborations with the electronic music groups Cheat Codes and Clean Bandit. And she’s even expanded to the Latin market with the Luis Fonsi collaboration “Echamela Culpita” and the Spanish version of “Solo” (Lovato is of Mexican descent).

But her latest release, “Sober,” was concerning since Lovato had said she was clean for six years.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** **Demi Lovato** collaborator Cheat Codes is stepping up to take over the headlining spot for the singer’s scheduled concert in **Atlantic City, N.J.**, Thursday night, Live Nation and AC Beach Concerts announced Wednesday.

The group, which recorded the track “No Promises” with Lovato in 2017, will join the scheduled opener Lauv for the concert. Atlantic City DJ **Chris Devine** will open the show. The Thursday night performance is now being billed as a free event, and all tickets previously sold will be honored at the Chainsmokers’ forthcoming July 29 beach show. Refunds will also be issued, the promoter said.

Cheat Codes and UK act Little Mix recently released the new single “Only You,” which is currently No. 1 on the UK Trending Chart. The song will be released to radio in the US on July 30. “No Promises” peaked at No. 38 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Lovato has received treatment for bipolar disorder, bulimia, and substance abuse. She chronicled her daily struggles with recovery in the 2017 YouTube original documentary “Simply Complicated.” In the movie, Lovato opened up about using cocaine while filming her 2012 doc “Stay Strong.”

Lovato’s condition was reported as “stable,” according to a rep for the singer.



# What's On horoscope

By Jacqueline Bigar

**Happy birthday for Friday, July 27, 2018:** This year will be memorable and one that your thoughts will often drift to in the future. Your birthday occurs on a lunar eclipse, promising relationship changes, not necessarily for the worst. If you are single, you could meet someone who forces you to do some inner reflection. This person might not be the love of your life, but he or she will be important to you. If you are attached, you might be taken aback by an adjustment that will need to be made between you and your sweetie. Not every moment will be easy, but the results will be noteworthy. Aquarius knows how to get you moving.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

**Capricorn** - (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

\*\*\*\* You have a way about you that

draws others closer to you. People might make assumptions about your finances, but they know little to nothing, and you'll want to keep it that way. You will be happier in the long run if you keep some details to yourself. Tonight: Treat a pal to munchies.

**Aquarius** - (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

\*\*\*\* Today's eclipse focuses on you. You might note that you experience more emotional vicissitudes than you thought possible. Do not fight these feelings. Know that you will get through them far more quickly if you go with the flow. Tonight: Note the intensity of the moment.

**Pisces** - (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

\*\*\*\* You might want to see a situation in a different light. You might try very hard to detach and come to terms with what you see. On the other hand, you could be hurt more easily

than in the recent past. Wait a few days before acting on your emotions. Tonight: Early to bed.

**Aries** - (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

\*\*\*\* Deal with a key individual. You will note that anger seems to be brewing. It will hit the boiling point if you are not careful. Help your acquaintances and/or friends clear the air. You could feel as if you are being pulled from one side to the other. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend!

**Taurus** - (Apr 20 - May 20)

\*\*\*\* You understand feeling out of whack. You also understand being unmovable on an issue that forces others to think through a problem. They might spontaneously say or do something that pushes you in a different direction. Tonight: If you can, stay out of the lunar frenzy.

**Gemini** - (May 21 - June 20)

\*\*\*\* You might want to take the high road rather than get involved in all the trivial issues around you. Nevertheless, your ability to communicate could improve with today's eclipse. You might want to gain a greater perspective of others and their actions. Tonight: Opt for something different.

**Cancer** - (June 21 - July 22)

\*\*\*\* You feel pressured and extraordinarily tired. Of all signs, today's eclipse could affect your energy levels the most. Feel free to cocoon and take a power nap. A partner might open up about what ails him or her. Avoid overreacting. Tonight: Go out, but only if you want.

**Leo** - (July 23 - Aug 22)

\*\*\*\* The lunar eclipse could energize your life, especially socially. You feel as if you're being forced into an odd position.

Accept your limitations, but don't take on unneeded criticism. A relationship could be entering your life or changing. Tonight: Go along with a friend's ideas.

**Virgo** - (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

\*\*\* You could feel out of sorts. Generally, the month before your birthday you might feel a little down. Often people look at their past year and wonder whether their next year could be as meaningful or better. Today's eclipse could cause fatigue. Tonight: Know when to say "no."

**Libra** - (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

\*\*\*\* An encounter could have more impact than you realize. Romance becomes spicy in the next few weeks. Use this unusually creative period to forge ahead on a heart-felt project. Be aware of a child who needs more attention than he or she is receiving. Tonight: In the limelight.

**Scorpio** - (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

\*\*\* Pressure builds as today's lunar eclipse seems to trigger you. A domestic matter pops up from out of the blue. You might not be sure which way to go. If you do nothing, you might get a more complete perspective. Weight the pros and cons before acting. Tonight: Take a long walk.

**Sagittarius** - (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

\*\*\*\* Reach out to a loved one. You might not have seen this person in a while, but once you get past the formalities, you will be impossible to separate. You have a lot of news to catch up on. Be aware of a sudden happening around your daily life. Tonight: Hang out at a favorite spot.

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**Born today:** TV writer Norman Lear (1922), figure skater Peggy Fleming (1948)

## home decor



doormat wall art

### Supplies:

Rubber doormat  
White spray paint  
Newspaper  
Paint brush

### Instructions:

Spread out the newspapers on your work station and lay out the mat, spray paint the mat white or in any other color of your choice. Paint one side and allow it to dry completely before painting the other side. Use a paint brush to paint between the gaps.

## indoor gardening



eucharis arifolia

Eucharis arifolia is a spring blooming species from Mexico. Its unifoliate, pear-shaped pseudobulbs grow in an erect position. Two to three longish leaves form on the apex of each pseudo-bulb. The greenish flowers are dominated by a frilled, snow-white lip with green venation and a yellowish center.

**Site:** Provide high light, it does best when grown mounted on driftwood or cork bark. Provide bright light and a dry winter rest.

**Temperature:** 50°F to 85°F.

**Water:** It requires a lot of water during active growth.

## beauty tips



cranberry face scrub

### Ingredients:

1/2 cup frozen cranberries  
1/4 cup coconut oil  
1/4 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons oat powder or ground oatmeal

### Instructions:

In a food processor, process all ingredients for 30 seconds. Use your fingertips to roll the product on the skin. Gently press and lather onto a clean face and neck. In order for it to work effectively, it is suggested that you leave the scrub on for a couple minutes. Last, but not least, rinse off the scrub with lukewarm water and moisturize with a skin lotion of your choice.

## taste buds



mangoes with cinnamon custard

### Ingredients:

1 cup heavy cream; 1 cup whole milk; 3-inch cinnamon; 3 strips of lime and orange zest; 2 large eggs; 1/2 cup sugar; 2 mangoes, peeled and cubed; 2 tbsp sugar; 2 tbsp lime juice.

**Method:** In a small saucepan, bring heavy cream, milk, cinnamon, lime and orange zests just to a boil. Whisk eggs and sugar together in a small mixing bowl until thoroughly blended. Ladle hot cream slowly into the egg mixture, whisking constantly. Cook the mixture over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Chill. To macerate the mangoes, toss with sugar and lime juice and chill until ready to serve. Garnish with almonds (optional).

## Dear Abby

Friends add to woman's grief by their 'absence'

By Abigail Van Buren

**Dear Abby:** I'm a retired woman living in a condo complex that houses mostly seniors. During the eight years I have lived here, I've always participated in several monthly social events, and have served on the condo association board. I know most of the other residents and count many of them as friends.

A couple of years ago, my dad moved in with me so I could care for him. The early evening he passed away, there were many emergency vehicles. Shockingly, not one of my neighbors came over. The police wouldn't leave me alone, and it took a while for another relative to get here.



Abigail

The next day, a neighborhood representative called to ask me what had happened.

Am I right in feeling hurt that my friends didn't care enough to check on things right away? They knew my situation.

**— Hurt in the Midwest**

**Dear hurt:** The reason many people would stay away from a scene like you describe might be that, because a lot was going on, they didn't want to intrude. Before jumping to conclusions about why your friends didn't contact you immediately, ASK them why they didn't and give them an opportunity to explain.

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**Dear Abby:** My wife and I have been married for seven years. It's the second marriage for both of us, and I'm getting ready to retire.

I do our laundry. She works very hard in her profession, and I do it because I enjoy the feeling of a job well done and doing something nice for her. However, my wife refuses, in spite of my repeatedly asking, to turn her clothes right-side out before putting them in the laundry basket. It takes me at least 30 minutes every wash day to correct her clothes before washing.

This is an ongoing annoyance. Her response usually is, "If you don't like it, don't do my laundry!" Am I asking too much? Is her habit so ingrained that she can't change it?

**— Husband in the laundry room**

**Dear husband:** Many people wash their clothes inside out because they think it gets the garment cleaner or they're afraid that washing the items right-side out will cause fading. Between you and me, I think your wife's suggestion is a good one. Let her wash her own clothes for a while, and you may find she becomes more cooperative.

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**Dear Abby:** My nieces send me pictures of their children on every occasion. I love them, but I don't understand why they think I want prints. I'd rather view them online. Is there a way I can tell them without damaging our relationship, or must I continue to keep my mouth shut and throw the photos into an ever-growing pile?

**— Auntie-pic**

**Dear auntie-pic:** It should offend no one if you "suggest" that you would love to view these lovely photos online rather than have your nieces "go to the expense" of printing and mailing them to you. Then cross your fingers and pray they take the hint.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

(Source: Universal Uclick)

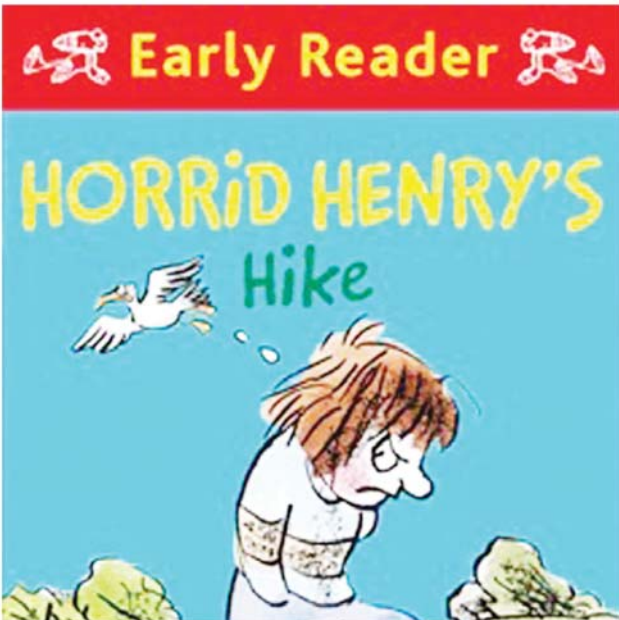
## what's on today

Site for checking travel ban [www.kuwaitcourts.gov.kw/mojweb/NGeneral/Main.jsp](http://www.kuwaitcourts.gov.kw/mojweb/NGeneral/Main.jsp)

emergency number 112

Civil ID info: 1889988

He's back and he's just as horrid ...



**Storytime at Amricani**  
Saturday, 28 July at 3:30  
Amricani Cultural Centre

No registration is needed.

We will start promptly at 3:30, so please arrive a bit early.

A flyer of the event

**Tagalog Khutba for Filipinos:** The Ministry of Awaqaf, Islam Presentation Committee, & Kuwait Philippine Cultural Center (KPC Center) invites all Filipino Muslim & Muslima to hear Khutba (Sermon) in Tagalog every Friday at Marzouq Al-Badr Mosque, Abu Bakr Al-Siddeeq St (at the back of Ambassador Supermarket and SM Supermarket, near Salihiya Police Station & Kuwait Airways Bldg) in Kuwait City. There will be a community started and lunch after Friday prayers at KPC Center in Farwaniya. For further information, please call KPC Center, Tel 4712574.

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**PGMK service:** Praise God Ministry of Kuwait (PGMK) holds services in Telugu and English in the NECK Compound, Lighthouse Church.

Fridays and Saturdays — 11:30 to 1:00 pm in English / 1:15 to 3:00 pm in Telugu. Sundays services in the Hall of Hope from 3:30 to 5 pm and then in Lighthouse Church from 7:30 to 9:30 pm.

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**St Paul's Church weekly activities:**

addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/Arabic.

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**Cancer online support group:** If you are Cancer patient or family member fighting with this deadly disease, come join our online support group. Best way of dealing with this disease is providing support and share our experience with each other. There are lot of things which even doctors can't tell so be member of this website and start sharing your experiences which may help others. October is recognized as National

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The primary purpose is to promote self examination and screening mammography as the most effective way to save lives by detecting breast cancer at early stage. For more information visit: <http://fightingwithcancer.webs.com/>

### Latest

**Call for Indian writers and poets:** As you are aware, Writers' Forum, Kuwait is a literary organization which provides an equal platform to the Poets and Writers of all the Indian

Items for the What's On page can be sent directly to the Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat or faxed to 24818267 or e-mail to [arabtimes@arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com](mailto:arabtimes@arabtimesonline.com).

All items on this page are published as a courtesy to the public. These announcements can include birthday greetings, weddings, social functions or any other non-commercial events. Photographs of all events are welcome.

**Redeemed Christian Church:** The Redeemed Christian Church of God (HOD Parish) worship in English.

Celebration Service: Friday 9 am – 11 am; Divine encounter: Sunday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm; Digging Deep (Bible studies): Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm; Night vigil every last Friday of the month from 10 pm.

Venue: New Mishref. For more information and direction please call 9927-6603, 6557-7482. Email: [rcchhouseofda-vidq8@gmail.com](mailto:rcchhouseofda-vidq8@gmail.com)

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**KTCC activities:** Worship service – every Wednesday 7:00-9:00 pm at North Tent, NECK.

Children's Bible School – every Wednesday 7 to 9 pm at Activity Building, NECK.

Overnight prayer – every 1st Thursday from 10 pm – 4:00 am at Diwaniya, NECK.

Communion Service – every 3rd Wednesday.

The following meeting are held at our KTCC Prayer House:

1) Children Bible School Teacher's Prayer – 1st Saturday 7 to 9 pm.

2) Children's Prayer – 2nd Friday 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

3) Bible Study – every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

4) ISOM – Batch 1 Class Tuesdays – 7 to 9 pm and Batch 2 Class Fridays – 4 to 6 pm.

5) Choir Practice – Mondays – 6 to 8 pm.

6) Men's Fellowship – 4th Friday – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

7) Women's Prayer – (Abbasiya) – 3rd Sunday – 6:30 to 8:30 pm and (Salmiya) 4th Tuesday – 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

8) Fasting Prayer – every 3rd Friday from 12:00 Noon – 3:30 pm.

9) Cottage Prayers – every 2nd and 4th Week.

10) Baptism Service – every 4th Friday.

Welcome to all Tamil known people to participate in our regular activities to worship the Lord in our own mother tongue and be blessed!

For details or for any prayer needs contact Tel No: 66920350 / 99432849.

languages without any prejudice of the gender, caste, creed and religious background. Writers' Forum, Kuwait is registered with the Embassy of India under registration no. INDEMB/KWT/ASSN/140. Primarily the Writers' Forum, Kuwait is an Indian, a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental, non-profit literary organization in Kuwait.

Since its inception on Nov 3, 1995, Writers' Forum, Kuwait has organized several Multilingual Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira which included many renowned Poets from various

Continued on Page 19



Sheeran's cats take to Instagram

SoundFi wants you to bring your headphones to movies

LOS ANGELES, July 26, (Agencies): Silence your phones... and put on your headphones: Los Angeles and Scottsdale, Arizona-based digital audio startup SoundFi is getting ready to roll out a new technology that promises to enhance the theater experience by delivering immersive 3D audio sound with the help of personal headphones. This week, the company is putting its tech to the test with the theatrical release of the Columbia Pictures' film "The Equalizer 2."

Movie fans who go to watch the film in Los Angeles or Scottsdale can download a dedicated SoundFi app onto their iPhones, and then listen to a binaural version of the movie's audio track over their headphones.

Instead of just hearing a 5.1 version, they get to hear bullets flying over their head, and audio seemingly coming from all sides — an experience similar to that of an expensive Dolby Atmos setup, which is currently only available in a small number of theaters. To achieve this, SoundFi took the original post-production audio tracks of the movie, and then mixed them down to spacial audio optimized for personal headphones.

The company also worked with Sony Pictures to add special marker signals that are inaudible to the human ear to the "Equalizer 2" soundtrack. Once a consumer fires up SoundFi's app in the theater, her phone constantly listens for those markers to keep the action on screen synced up with the audio that's being played over the headphones.

"We spent a lot of time on sync accuracy," said SoundFi CEO Chris Anastas. He claimed that the app was even able to detect how far away from the screen an audience member is, which allows it to account for any delays introduced based on someone's seat position.

**Impressive**

In a demo given to Variety earlier this week, SoundFi's app delivered impressive 3D audio for action scenes, and a direct comparison between stereo and binaural audio sound for sports clearly made for a much more immersive experience.

Plus, SoundFi has the potential to offer features that film fans otherwise wouldn't get in a theater. "You can go to the concession stand and still listen to the film," Anastas explained.

In the future, SoundFi could also offer foreign language dubs to make movies more accessible to international audiences — a feature that is already offered by some competitors, including Theater Ears. Even hardcore film fans, who may scoff at the idea, could get something out of a personalized audio experience, he said. "I want to bring the director's commentary back."

SoundFi's initial roll-out is little more than a test run, with just five screens total making use of the technology for "The Equalizer 2." However, Anastas already has big plans for the technology, and he just won over the film's director Antoine Fuqua to join the company as an executive advisor and partner.

Future plans include an option to monetize SoundFi by upselling consumers a dollar or two for a better in-theater audio experience, as well as the ability to supply studios with data collected from consumers who have opted in to share it. This could one day even include biometric data from fitness headphones capable of measuring heart rates and more. "We want to measure your emotional response," he said.

The big question is: Will consumers

balk at the idea of wearing their headphones in a movie theater? Anastas admitted that the experience may be unusual to some, but he also argued that younger audiences already take their headphones everywhere.

Anyone who is willing to try it should go all in, and not use inconspicuous, tiny earbuds, advised Anastas: "It is more impressive with over-the-ear headphones."

**Also:**

**LONDON:** Pop star Ed Sheeran has an answer for the dog days of summer gripping the northern hemisphere: an Instagram account for his cats.

The English singer-songwriter, a well-known lover of the pets, unveiled on Wednesday a new handle — @thewibbles — for his two felines, named Dorito and Calippo.

Announcing the new account to his own 24 million followers on the social media platform by sharing a picture of the cats, he promised to chronicle "their daily routine".

Within 24 hours three photos of the pair in different poses had already attracted more than 110,000 followers —

and plenty of adoring comments.

Sheeran, 27, has been honoured for his attachment to cats, with a figure of the folk-pop phenomenon unveiled in June by Madame Tussauds at London's first cat cafe.

He is also not the only celebrity fan of felines.

Fellow pop star Taylor Swift has two of the pets, named Olivia Benson and Dr Meredith Grey.

Swift, 28, reportedly applied Wednesday to trademark the name "Meredith & Olivia Swift" and her website has merchandise for sale featuring the cats' likeness on them.

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**BEVERLY HILLS, California:** Facebook Inc said on Wednesday that it would debut an interactive reality show starring basketball star Shaquille O'Neal on a quest to open a restaurant, as the company looks to attract viewers to its Facebook Watch video service.

The eight-episode "Big Chicken Shaq" would launch in the coming weeks, the company said at a Television Critics Association event where TV networks and streaming platforms promote

upcoming shows.

In the series, O'Neal will seek advice from Facebook users while preparing to open a restaurant in Las Vegas. The former National Basketball Association star will use Facebook Live interact with fans, the company said in a statement.

Facebook Watch launched in the United States a year ago with original series, news programs and user-created videos.

Other upcoming series include a singing competition in which Facebook users would nominate friends to compete, and auditions and voting would take place on Facebook, the company said.

Both shows represent the type of interactive television Facebook is trying to create to engage users, said Ricky Van Veen, the company's head of global creative strategy.

Facebook Watch is competing for audiences with services that dominate online video like Netflix Inc and Alphabet Inc's YouTube.

Van Veen said some Facebook Watch shows were gaining traction, including "Tom vs Time," a series starring New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Girl Scouts

click Latest Continued from Page 18

Indian languages, Published Navratna in nine languages with English translations, felicitated writers and poets for their works etc. During this journey of the Writers' Forum, Kuwait so far, many of the members have published their works / compositions. Writers' Forum, Kuwait conducts monthly meetings on the 3rd Friday of each month during which literary works composed by the members are discussed.

In order to reach out to the Indian literary person who are capable of writing poems, essays, articles, short stories on any topic / subject in any Indian language, we invite such individuals to contact following office bearers for further details.

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**Advisory for OCI card holders:** All those having OCI Cards are required to carry both their OCI Card and passport to travel to India so that they do not face any difficulty in immigration clearance.

From October 2018, ICAO will accept only machine readable travel documents, hence, existing PIO Cards, which are handwritten will therefore, become invalid. Thus it will be necessary upon PIO Cardholders to obtain machine readable OCI Cards in lieu of existing hand written PIO Cards before October 2018 to avoid any inconvenience.

Oct 7

**Brazilian Elections 2018:** In view of the presidential elections on 7th of October 2018 (first round), Brazilian voters in Kuwait are informed of the obligation to re-register at the consular section of the Brazilian Embassy in Kuwait.

In the process of re-registration, the voter must complete the following steps (please pay attention to the deadline of each step):

Step 1 (to be fulfilled until 09/05/2018):

a) fill the form on the website of the Superior Electoral Court (<http://www.tse.jus.br/eleitor-e-eleicoes/servicos/eleitor-no-exterior/pre-admindento-eleitoral-no-exterior-titulo-net>);

b) print and sign the form.

Step 2 (to be completed by 16/05/2018):

c) attend the consular section of the Embassy of Brazil in Kuwait, which runs from Sunday to Thursday, from 08 am to 12 noon, to present the following documents:

■ Brazilian official document of identification (identity card, professional card issued by a federal organization, birth or marriage certificate, passport, Brazilian labor ID). Documents must have the following data to confirm one's identity: name of the father, name of the mother, date and place of birth. In the case the document does not provide the mentioned data, the voter must present another document to complete the information;

■ Proof or statement that certifies your residence in Kuwait;

Personal attendance is mandatory for finalizing the application.

The address of the Brazilian Embassy in Kuwait is Mubarak Al Abdullah Area, Block 1, Street 116, Villa 47 — phone 2537-8561/2.

General

**Q8BBall Season 13:** Q8BBall is beginning our 13th season with Boys U13 (ages 10-13) and U17 (ages 14-17). We train three times a week and play regular games throughout the year with schools and clubs. In June 2018, we plan to travel for camp and tournaments in the US. Contact Coach T 97128884 for information.

□ □ □

**Invitation to Grand Mosque:** The Visits Department is pleased to invite you to visit the Grand Mosque, which is one of Kuwait's most treasured religious and cultural landmarks to discover the beauty of Islamic arts and architecture. Free guided tours are available all year round on official working days between (9-11 am) and (5-7 pm), with a special tour program designed to cater to the needs of different age groups. The program is as follows:

**Continued on Page 20**



Ket Davis releases an arrow during an archery session at a Girl Scout day camp in Carnation, Washington on June 26. (AP)

More than cookies and camping

Girl Scouts stress 'girl power' in new recruitment

By David Crary

As American women seek a larger role in politics, fairer wages and an end to sexual harassment, the Girl Scouts see an opportune time to show some swagger in promoting their core mission: girl empowerment.

They recruited Queen Latifah to narrate a video featuring famous former Girl Scouts — Venus Williams, Katie Couric and many more. And they indulged in a little bragging when Girl Scout alumna Meghan Markle married into Britain's royal family.

"Life is always better with a Girl Scout by your side, and Prince Harry truly hit the jackpot," enthused a post on Girl Scout Blog.

But the marketing campaign is about more than boasting. It's also an effort to confront several high-stakes challenges, including reversing a long slide in membership, making the case for all-girl scouting after the rival Boy Scouts included girls and updating the organization's curriculum for a new generation that expects more than cookies and camping.

"What's happening in society as a whole makes it all the more important for girls to have every possible opportunity to learn that their voice and opinion matter, and to have the courage and confidence to become who they want to be," said Megan Ferland, CEO of the Seattle-based Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

One major challenge, she said, is to puncture some of the myths and stereotypes that affect public perceptions.

"People hear 'Girl Scouts' and think, 'Oh, those cute little girls that sell the cookies and make macaroni necklaces' and that's it," Ferland said. "It is so much more than that."

**Activities**

She cited activities such as robotics and rock climbing, a strong emphasis on community service and the iconic cookie sales, which she



Girl Scouts read about women leaders at a demonstration of some of their activities in Seattle on June 18. (AP)



Girl Scouts Amelia Connolly (left), Ava Townsend and Maddie Hagenson start work on a project at a demonstration of some of their activities in Seattle on June 18. (AP)

depicted in a recent newspaper essay as "the largest girl-run business in the world."

The Boy Scouts decided last year to admit girls into all programs. But the Girl Scouts' parent organization, Girl Scouts of the USA, will not follow suit by admitting boys.

"I believe with full conviction that Girl Scouts is the best leader-

ship organization in the world for girls, and that is because we are girl-led and girl-centric," said Violet Apple, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, as well as other youth organizations and sports leagues, have experienced membership declines in recent years, for reasons ranging from busy family

schedules to the lure of online games and social media. The Girl Scouts say they now have about 1.76 million girls and 780,000 adult members — down from about 2.9 million girls and 900,000 adult volunteers in 2003.

Some recruitment efforts reflect the Girl Scouts' pride in the diversity of their membership. For example, the organization over the past two years has created more than 240 new troops in low-income Los Angeles neighborhoods to serve several thousand girls from Hispanic, African-American, Korean and other communities.

Denise Nowack, who oversees the recruitment programs, said the Girl Scouts council in LA decided to cover basic first-year costs for the new troops, including membership fees and uniforms, to ease the financial burden.

Many other councils struggle to find enough adults to serve as volunteer troop leaders, leaving hundreds of girls on waiting lists.

"It's really sad," said Asha Menon, a troop leader for seven years in the Atlanta suburb of McDonough. "All these parents show up with kids who want to be in it — but they want another adult to take the lead."

In Chicago, TV producer Craig Harris has tried — with minimal success — to persuade other men to join him as Girl Scout leaders. Harris started as a volunteer 14 years ago when his eldest daughter — now a confident college student — joined the Girl Scouts as a shy 5-year-old.

Harris' 11-year-old daughter is active in the Girl Scouts, pursuing her interest in science.

**Career**

"I lead a full career, but I've found ample time to be a volunteer," Harris said. "My oldest daughter went all the way through, and I was there at every stage. It was invaluable time building those memories with her."

Among the many mothers juggling

work and Girl Scout duties is Audra Fordin, owner of an auto-repair business in New York City's Flushing neighborhood. She is founder of an education initiative called Women Auto Know and leader of her teenage daughter's troop.

Fordin is confident the Girl Scouts can maintain their stature as an all-girl institution even as the Boy Scouts go coed.

"Some girls may not feel as capable of doing the same things boys can do," she said. "But when we come together in a group, we can accomplish whatever we want to do."

Reeny Boutros, 18, of Wichita, Kansas, started Girl Scouts at age 5. She said the experience helped her develop the skills and confidence that recently earned her admission to Stanford University, with plans to major in computer science.

Boutros has received Girl Scouting's highest honors — first earning the elite Gold Award, then being selected as one of 10 National Young Women of Distinction. She's a technology whiz now, but recalled struggling with studies back in middle school.

"The badge work (with Girl Scouts) was one of the few academic recognitions I got," she said. "I got exposed to archaeology, photography. It was a great way to boost my self-esteem."

Boutros' experience reflects the Girl Scouts' push to engage girls in science, technology, engineering and math. There are a host of new STEM-related badges, and there's a newly opened year-round camp in Dallas — the STEM Center of Excellence — that will offer K-12 STEM programs on a 92-acre campus.

But the best part of being a Girl Scout? "It's always been camping," she said. "You put your phones away and bond with nature — and just giggle uncontrollably with your friends." (AP)



# Heels that heal

By Nili Zahar

If these shoes are beautifully made for walking??? Then why is it I'm crisscrossed ugly???  
The answer lies with the shoes themselves ... for if you chose right, you will eventually walk up-right and straight forward like the catwalk models we all love to mimic when we are in our bedrooms alone and wearing them heels pretending we are Naomi Campbell in her golden days in the '90s or Beyonce in her closing act scene on stage after that unbelievable hair-head flip! Glorious!!! Just fabulous!!!! You guys know what I mean. But before all that day dreaming in lala land, first things are first ... number one on your to do list would be choosing the right style of shoes, heels, pumps that will not trick you, and that is try before you buy and never ever online, shoes that are first comfortable, secondly is stylish, cause as the renowned heels couturier Manolo Blahnik always repeated vigorously "There is nothing more unflattering to see than women with no style in their stride" and the remedy to ever-lasting



Nili

elegance in your walk is simple (choose comfy first, then designer shoes ... always). It is true that some comfy heels are downright ugly and have no sense of style at all and many times they look funny, but that is because you are not choosing the right fit for your feet and with that we seem to walk bowed and crooked with much discomfort some times and the opposite trial can be just as excruciating and painful. So in order to avoid all these, just look at your feet, they will spell it out for you and unravel the mysteries of comfort while telling you what they truly need to feel, walk beautifully. Many of us female Arabic feet have the arch, which is beautiful, and many others have flat pounded feet, the important thing here is the following when it comes to choosing the right fit for your feet to look elegant and most importantly walk with elegance.  
Rule one ... when out shopping choose a heavier platform if you are heavier built, stay away from pencil or needle cut heels with extremely pointy toe tips for two reasons they will neither support your back nor your body weight to walk straight or balanced, hence the crooked walk will be back with a vengeance.  
Rule two ... try as much as you can to select heels, pumps, boots or even high heel sandals that can give comfort to your hallux, better known for it's common name the bear-toe all the comfort it needs, cause the key to a

comfy fit and an elegant walk is the comfort of the bear.  
Rule three ... last but never least and darlings I seriously don't want to sound like your nanny or mummy, but do pedicure weekly, our darling feet need pampering on a regular basis. For a healthy walk starts with a healthy foot, inside and out and if you suffer or have any of these unwarranted problems, as calluses that will not go away or bunions that just won't subside or a nail in-grown or dead skin that sometimes make it difficult to breath because of the pain, then my ladies, it is time to pay a visit to your local good old fashioned podiatrist, or the more used term, the foot doctor ... and yes!!!! Immediately!!! As you visit your dentist once every six months and take care of that Hollywood smile, it's time to look down south and take care of those foundations ... our own feet, that we sometimes neglect and ignore, never giving them all the care they need and so much deserve. And as my own personal podiatrist once told me, quoting my idol Oprah Winfrey "Keep your feet healthy and grounded so you can wear better designer heels". With that I think enough is said about the footing and substructure of the matter. So if you feel your feet deserve your attention today and every day, then you know what to do to ...  
Think happy thoughts and I wish you happy feet forever.  
Stay comfortably safe and fashionable.

## NBK



A group photo from the trip



A photo from the event

### NBK Summer Internship students visit KDD

National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) concluded the second session of the Summer Internship Program 2018. The session ended by a field trip to Kuwait Danish Dairy Company (KDD).  
KDD representatives took the students in a tour to introduce them to the various activities as well as an exclusive visit to its factory. The students had the chance to see the different stages of food production.  
The aim of this visit is to enrich the students' knowledge. It's worth mentioning that, the Summer Internship Program this year is made up of different sessions, five-hour daily over two weeks each. The program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to provide the interns with valuable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: teamwork, creative thinking, the means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them having a greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.  
This annual program demonstrates NBK's long-standing social involvement as well as its national commitment towards providing young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking issues and transactions are handled and processed.  
It has been seventeen years since the establishment of this program. NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension to its educative initiatives and as part of its corporate social responsibility.

inside the prayer halls.  
■ For school visits, teachers are responsible for their students and are required to cooperate with the staff members of the Grand Mosque.  
■ Photography is allowed inside the Grand Mosque (please note that disrespectful poses are strictly prohibited).  
If you would like to book a tour, please contact us:  
Tel: 22980813/ 22980815/ 22980812  
Email: gmvisits@gmail.com  
Fax: 22473708

**Share your story with Amricani:**  
Do you or any of your family members, acquaintances or friends happen to have a story with the American Missionary hospital in Kuwait (Mustashfa Lemraicani) during the years from 1914-1967, the official period of offering medical services in Kuwait?  
Please share with us your story or your memory during those old days by writing the event and sending it to the following email address: Mystory@damuseum.org.kw  
Notes: 1. Please send your story only to the above mentioned email. Story shared in Instagram, Facebook or Twitter will not be considered.  
2. Please write your story or memory and sign it with your full name, and your contact number.  
3. It will be great if you send us your personal photos or those of the place  
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## Lifestyle

### 'Gabes dying because of lack of water'

# Henna losing its allure as Tunisia's 'red gold'

GABES, Tunisia, July 26, (AFP): In and around the Tunisian coastal city of Gabes, henna has long been a key driver of the economy – so much so that the plant is known as "red gold".  
But a water crisis and changing consumer habits are making farmers think twice about planting henna shrubs, despite their coveted leaves that have for centuries been ground down to paint nails, tint hair and ink temporary tattoos, especially for weddings.  
"Gabes is dying because of the lack of water," says farmer Houcine Akrouit, as he digs intricate channels around his green plants to maximise water flow in the early morning sunlight.  
Akrouit is hard at work, because the local water supply will today run from a canal onto his land – a rare thing nowadays, due to government rationing.  
Urbanisation and rapidly rising demand for water from industry and agriculture have put immense pressure on Tunisia's water reserves, according to the World Bank.  
And a 2016 study of Tunisia's water services funded by Sweden's government found that losses from the irrigation network reach 40 to 50 percent.  
For farmers like Akrouit, that means waiting 15 to 20 days for access to the water supply.  
"It's very long for the henna plant which needs lots of water," he tells AFP.  
The situation is so bad he has uprooted most of his henna shrubs and replaced them with pomegranate trees – a much less thirsty species.



A bride shows her henna painted hands, the day before her wedding in Gabes town, in southeastern Tunisia on July 14, 2018. (AFP)

previous season, Ghiloufi says.  
But other factors, including a labour shortage, are also driving the long-term decline.  
And it's not only supply side pressures that undermine the market – demand for local henna is also falling, as people opt for foreign alternatives.  
Over the centuries, henna leaves have been dried and reduced to a fine powder before being mixed with water, to create the paste coveted by people in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.  
The paste is used to colour hair, palms of hands, arms and feet with simple patterns that last for a month or so.  
But the process can be messy and people don't always want to keep the art work for that long.  
So imports of a treated version of henna from Sudan, Yemen and India are increasingly popular, with added chemicals limiting penetration of the skin and making it easy to wash from hands.  
Ahead of weddings, the ready-to-use dye is handed out in decorated boxes to guests at bachelorette parties.  
The processed imported versions are taking over from the local prod-

uct.  
And while once popular as a grandmother's remedy for anything from migraines to skin problems, younger people are more sceptical of henna's healing powers.  
But for Ghiloufi the only way "to revive the sector is to break new ground", by promoting henna's natural benefits and diversifying into new markets.  
In the capital Tunis, shampoos  
  
A Tunisian farmer harvests henna plants at his farm in Gabes town on July 13, 2018. (AFP)

based on the plant have begun to find their way into health stores.  
Only a few entrepreneurs sell Tunisian henna abroad – and they do so without state support – so exports are minimal, despite the "good quality" produced by Gabe's farmers, says Ghiloufi.  
In Jara, the main tourist market in the centre of Gabes, huge stalls overflow with henna and incense – but the streets are empty.  
Traders complain that the trickle of tourists is not enough to compensate for locals' disinterest.  
"Henna is sold all the year round. Our market was always full of clients who come from all over Tunisia!" says 85-year-old Hassen Mrabet, who has been growing and selling henna for half a century.  
"Now sales are limited to the wedding season in July and August," he adds.  
Another trader bemoans the rising popularity of other beauty products and treatments, as lifestyles change.  
New forms of "dye and manicures have replaced henna today", according to 49-year-old Ismail.  
"Tunisians have changed their habits and turned their backs on their traditions; henna is out of fashion."

click

## Latest

Continued from Page 19

Reception; Auditorium show; (according to age group); Touring the Mosque; Q & A; Art workshops; (according to age group – between 5 and 18 years old); Snack break; Distribution of the Grand Mosque publications and souvenirs; End of tour.  
According to these age groups:  
Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15 years: Morning: 100 visitors max; Evening: 45; 16 and above: Morning: 140 visitors max, Evening: 105;  
Tour language: Arabic-English-French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic-English-French; Arabic (English upon prior request); Arabic-English-French: Arabic (English upon prior request)  
Rules and Regulations:  
■ Please arrive in time for your visit.  
■ All visitors are kindly required to abide by the mosque's dress code. Male visitors should wear long pants. Shorts and sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Female visitors: should wear head cover and long loose clothing (available at the mosque).  
■ Foods and drinks are not allowed



‘Be your own prep cooks’

An hour of meal prep sets you up for a yummy week

By Katie Workman

What if you had a prep cook in your kitchen? A sous chef who made sure that all of the slicing and dicing and mincing and zesting was done for you, so that when it came time to make dinner, all you had to do was wash your hands and start cooking?

Most of us aren't going to get this in our lifetimes. But what if we took an hour on Sunday evening to be our own prep cooks, and make life easier all week long?

Yes, you can buy many of these items pre-cut & but since they've been cut days before, even as you take them from their bags, you can see some browning or dryness or aging. When you prep the ingredients yourself, you have a better shot at a longer shelf life, and you know exactly how fresh they are.

If you are a meal planner, already aware of which recipes you plan to make for the week, then identify the ingredients that can be prepped ahead of time, add them to your shopping list and get them into recipe-ready shape.

But if you aren't quite sure what you are making, then you can still be your own best friend by prepping a bunch of ingredients you likely will call into duty.

If you have a food processor, this task just got easier, as you can pulse everything up, small batches of one ingredient at a time, and have yourself an arsenal of prepped ingredients at the ready. Keep all of your prepped items in tightly sealed containers in the fridge.

Here are some suggestions: ingredients that make frequent appearances in my kitchen. But you'll determine the ingredients you most often use.

**Minced Garlic:** This will last for up to a week in the fridge, and mincing it yourself is much better than buying a jar of pre-minced.

**Minced Shallots:** If you don't cook with shallots, please reconsider. They are a bit of a cross between onions and garlic, but they have a mild sweetness as well. Use about half the amount in any recipe that calls for onions, and twice as much if you are subbing them for garlic. Shallots are

perfect in vinaigrettes.

**Chopped or Slivered Onions:** How nice to get any onion-induced crying out of the way in one fell swoop. I usually sliver one onion and chop a couple.

**Big carrots peeled and cut into sticks:** Keeping them as sticks means you can munch on them throughout the week, or if you need them chopped for a recipe later, you are halfway there.

**Citrus zest and juice (lemon, lime and/or orange):** Use a grater (a Microplane is good) to remove the brightly colored outer layer of your citrus fruit and store that in a tiny bag or container. Then juice the fruit and strain the juice into a container. Both items will lend a welcome bit of brightness and freshness to recipes of all kinds, from soups to sauces to salad dressings.

**Broccoli or cauliflower florets:** You might simply roast or saute these later in the week, or use them in stir-fries or soups, or lightly steam them and use in pastas and salads.



This November 2016 photo shows food being prepped for a meal in New York. (AP)

**Chopped parsley:** Useful in dishes and as a finishing bit of fresh herbiness on all sorts of foods, especially hearty stewed and braised ones. Other

fresh herbs are less sturdy, and to get a head start on those just pull the leaves off, fold them into a slightly damp paper towel, and store them whole. If

you chop them they will blacken in a day or two.

**Cooked crumbled bacon (don't judge me):** A little container of this is like gold, perfect to top off a soup, add to potato or pasta salads, stir into a frittata & there are more ways to use cooked, crumbled bacon than can be mentioned in a few sentences!

**Grated cheeses:** Yes, you can buy some pre-grated cheese, and you should definitely do that, but sometimes you want to grate your own Parmesan, or you need a grated cheese that's not as easy to find, like fontina.

Week to week, your list of pre-cut foods will vary. Sometimes it might be sliced radishes or cubed butternut squash or chopped celery. It depends what recipes are in the forecast, and also what ingredients are in the fridge and begging to be used.

So, next Sunday, make a mug of tea, put on some music and pay it forward. Your Wednesday self will thank your Sunday self shortly. (AP)

Lifestyle

Indian island enjoys ‘tasty tea’

The Spanish yoghurt farm that cultivates better mental health

OLOT, Spain, July 26, (RTRS): High up in the remote hills of Catalonia, workers carefully stacked crates of yoghurt pots and diligently stuck labels on jars for one of Spain's most successful - and unusual - dairies, where nearly half the staff have mental health problems.

For decades, La Fageda, meaning The Beech Forest in Catalan, has been employing people with mental health conditions, like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, to help them find purpose in life and greater emotional stability.

"Normally those with schizophrenia inspire fear - people don't know how they are going to act," said Albert Riera, a spokesman for the pioneering social business, some 120 km northeast of Barcelona.

"At La Fageda, these people don't have a label - they are totally integrated - and they start improving, reconstructing themselves without any intervention."

Finding and holding on to paid work is often a challenge for people with mental health problems because of stigma and misunderstanding of the recovery process, according to the World Health Organization.

But psychiatric studies show that even low paid, part-time work can reduce hospital re-admissions and their need for healthcare services.

Nearly 130 people with mental health issues work at La Fageda, mixing on a daily basis with about 160 other employees that do not.

While people with mental health conditions can struggle to maintain healthy routines and stay away from drugs, working at La Fageda motivates them to get up early, focus on recovery and improves emotional balance, said Riera.

"Our attitude is: you are not ill, you have an illness like I have a pain in my ligament - it's the same," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"You are responsible for your work, and you have to do it well, and then you will receive a wage ... That they can see the yoghurts they have made in the supermarket - and that people pay for them - gives them great pride."

Therapy

Staff with mental health issues take a bus each day from shared accommodation in the nearby town of Olot down a long, winding path through the forest to the farm, nestled among the verdant hills and ancient volcanoes of La Garrotxa region.

A team of therapists is based permanently on site and staff can also use an outdoor gym, generous spaces devoted to exercise and relaxation, and take part in creative activities.

Joan Vila Marco, who has been working at La Fageda for nearly two decades, was keen to talk about his art.

"Did you see my pictures?" he asked urgently, as he piled up his plate in the staff canteen. "I like to draw."

The 56-year-old was diagnosed with schizophrenia while studying at university in Barcelona. His condition deteriorated and he eventually had to drop out.

His parents - who were desperate, not knowing what to do with him - were relieved when they found La Fageda, said Riera.

Now Marco teaches art in workshops at the farm and his drawings hang in its offices, an obvious source of pride to him.

Even the farm's outhouses, looking out over the snowy peaks of the Pyrenees, embody serenity. Baroque chamber music wafted from the barns as a cow rubbed itself against a giant massage brush - both used to calm the livestock down.

"Working in nature, working with living beings, animals and plants, is an essential part of the La Fageda

project," said Cristobal Colon, who founded La Fageda on a shoestring in 1982 as a cooperative.



Each morning, **Kamarunisa Poovummada** sips her cup of tea while watching waves from the Arabian Sea crash around a water treatment plant opposite her house on Kavaratti island, off India's southwest coast.

She links the taste of her perfectly brewed cup to the desalination plant that has brought potable water to the doorsteps of islanders, and almost erased the memory of the brackish tea she hurriedly swallowed down until a decade ago.

"We first noticed the difference when we saw the golden colour of the tea as we strained it into our cups," Poovummada recalled. "And then we tasted the tea and it was magical."

The "tasty" tea is celebrated daily by residents of Kavaratti, the capital of India's smallest Union Territory Lakshadweep, an archipelago of 36 islands, of which only 10 are inhabited.

Surrounded by pristine beaches, lagoons and coral reefs, the islanders have for decades battled a shortage of clean water - a challenge facing many island inhabitants globally.

Over the years, the sea's clear blue waters seeped into the islands' limited groundwater reserves, making every sip saline.

Unsafe

Limited land availability also resulted in groundwater sources being too close to sewage sumps, causing contamination and making water unsafe for drinking, cooking or even bathing.

"The water system was a mess," said **Hidayathulla Chekillakam**, who grew up on the island and is an employee of the public works department that runs the desalination plant.

Different options were tried, from open wells to rainwater harvesting, he said - but they were either ineffective or too expensive.

"Good drinking water was a prized commodity," he added.

When **Purnima Jalihal** and her team from the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) first arrived on Kavaratti in 2004, they were armed with blueprints for a desalination plant and cartons of bottled water.

They found themselves in the midst of a fragile ecosystem, with clear instructions from the island administration to "not destroy" anything. They were also warned about the tea, and soon found even a sip made them queasy.

"The salinity in the water was unbearable, and the people knew it was not good for their health. But they had no choice," Jalihal said.

The project - and the fact it was headed by a woman - drew curious islanders to the site, where Jalihal's team had to improvise designs to ensure construction did not harm the ecosystem.

"It was a struggle to get things going," the scientist said. "There was no infrastructure and we couldn't bring in heavy machinery. Everything had to be done manually."

The team built floating structures and towed them into the sea, including an underwater pipeline.

In less than a year, the water treatment plant was up and running, producing 100,000 litres of potable water a day.

Pipelines were laid along the streets, with a community tap set up every 25 metres (82 ft). And in 2005, the water supply started.

"It was almost like a revolution," housewife **Rahiyath Begum** told the Thomson Reuters Foundation as she watched her children play on the beach.



This July 2018 photo shows fresh corn spoon-bread in New York.

New bay sweet potato fries

Corn spoonbread has puddinglike richness

By Sara Moulton

The Southern staple known as spoonbread - a particular specialty of Kentucky and Virginia - is a Native American dish adopted early on by America's earliest European settlers. George Washington happened to be a big fan and often served it at Mount Vernon, Virginia. I love it because of its pudding-like richness, a creamy, airy cross between cornbread and a soufflé. Creating that airiness is a matter of separating the eggs and beating the whites, then folding them into the batter.

The recipe's key ingredient is corn, and since this is the height of the fresh corn season, I decided to amp up the traditional recipe with corn kernels. Half of them are pureed - adding to the bread's creaminess - while the remainder is folded in for crunch.

What should you look for when buying fresh corn?

Start by confirming that each ear is full and thick, with kernels growing all the way to the tip. The easiest way to do so would be to strip away the husk and take a squint at the tip, but that maneuver makes the ear unsellable. Instead, use your fingers to feel if the ear is full at the top by pressing the tip through the husk. And if you discover a tiny bug on the ear after shucking it at home, just wash it away, secure in the knowledge that no pesticides were used in the corn's cultivation.

Some varieties of corn sold at the market will stay sweet for four or five days. I prefer regular corn because it tastes more like corn to me, but its sugar starts to turn to starch as soon as it's picked, which means it's best to cook the corn as soon as you can (keep it chilled until you do).

I call for fine cornmeal in this recipe for Fresh Corn Spoonbread with Sharp Cheddar and Chiles, but you're welcome to use the medium-ground variety if you want a bit of gritty crunch. The buttermilk provides some tangy contrast to the corn's sweetness, but if you're no fan of tang (or don't want to buy buttermilk), substitute regular whole milk.

Fresh Corn Spoonbread with Sharp Cheddar and Chiles

Servings: 6  
Start to finish: 1 hour, 10 minutes (45 active)  
2 cups fresh corn kernels  
2 cups buttermilk  
2 / 3 cup fine yellow cornmeal  
1 tablespoon unsalted butter  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
1 / 4 teaspoon cayenne, optional  
4 ounces extra-sharp cheddar cheese, coarsely grated  
One 4.5 ounce can chopped green chilies, drained  
4 large eggs, separated, at room temperature  
1 / 4 teaspoon cream of tartar

In a blender, puree 1 cup of the corn with 1 cup of the buttermilk until smooth.  
Heat oven to 425 F. In a medium saucepan, stir together the pureed corn with the remaining buttermilk, cornmeal, butter, salt and cayenne, if using, and bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring frequently. Reduce the heat and simmer, whisking constantly, 3 minutes. Remove from the heat, stir in the cheese, chilies and the remaining 1 cup corn kernels; let cool while you beat the egg whites.

In a bowl with electric beaters, beat the whites with a pinch of salt until they are frothy, add the cream of tartar and beat until they form soft peaks. Add the yolks to the



This December 2017 photo shows New Bay sweet potato fries. (AP)

cornmeal mixture, whisking constantly. Stir one-fourth of the whites into the cornmeal mixture and then fold in the remaining whites gently until they are just incorporated. Spread the mixture evenly in a buttered shallow 8-inch square baking dish and bake on a rack in the lower third of the oven until set, 20 to 25 minutes. Serve immediately.



The unmistakable flavor of Old Bay seasoning is the key ingredient in many seafood dishes north, south and west of the Chesapeake Bay, particularly anything to do with crab and crayfish.

But phooey for me, I'm allergic to a few ingredients in this classic blend. So I came up with my own version.

The first dish I made with it was these New Bay sweet potato fries. It was a very good choice. Don't expect these fries to get super crispy - sweet potato fries have a hard time doing that, especially in the oven. But what they lack in crispness they make up for in soulful flavor and warm color.

Don't worry about perfect potato sticks. You're not entering a French fry-making contest. The easiest way to get nice long fries, however, is to peel the potatoes, cut them lengthwise into 1/4-inch slabs, and then stack those up a few at a time and cut them into 1/4-inch-thick sticks.

I keep empty dried herb and spice jars to store various blends and rubs that I make. Just use a jar that contained one of the seasonings you are including in your blend, and make sure to label the jar.

Then get ready to have some fun with your New Bay seasoning (and you'll have some left to play with after you make the fries).

Some uses for this blend are: Crab cakes, of course. Added to flour and used as a coating for fried or baked seafood, fish or chicken. Dip the item in beaten egg or milk first.

Added to jambalaya, gumbo, and other Creole or Cajun dishes.

Blended with sour cream or mayonnaise for a fast and easy dip for cooked shrimp.

Mashed into potatoes, or cauliflower puree.

Stirred into eggs before scrambling.

Sprinkled over olive oil-brushed pitas, baked, and cut into triangles for appetizers or snacks.

Added to egg salad and deviled eggs.

Used as a rub for fish, seafood, chicken - think pork loin, kebabs, whole roast chicken or pieces (over or under the skin).

Sweet Potato Fries with New Bay Seasoning

Servings: 6  
Start to finish: 35 minutes  
2 tablespoons celery salt  
1/2 teaspoon paprika  
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon ground allspice  
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper  
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves  
Coarse or Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
4 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into sticks about 1/4-inch wide in each direction  
2 tablespoons vegetable, canola or peanut oil.

Preheat oven to 425 F. In a clean jar with a lid, combine the celery salt, paprika, dry mustard, cinnamon, allspice, cayenne, black pepper, ginger and cloves. Shake well to thoroughly combine.

Place the sweet potatoes on two separate rimmed baking sheets (line the baking sheets with aluminum foil or parchment if you have it). Make sure there is enough room so fries can have space between them as they cook. Drizzle the oil evenly over the sweet potatoes, and toss to coat potatoes with oil. Sprinkle about 1 tablespoon of the seasoning blend over fries on each of the baking sheets, and toss again to make sure sweet potato fries are evenly coated with the spice mixture. Again, make sure there is some space between the fries.

Bake for 10 minutes, then use a spatula to flip fries around and switch baking sheets in the oven so that the bottom one ends up baking on top. Bake for another 8 to 12 minutes, until they are lightly browned in spots and very tender. Serve hot. (AP)







Health

‘End ‘unscientific’ laws’

HIV infects one teenaged girl every 3 minutes – UN

AMSTERDAM, July 26, (AFP): Every three minutes, a girl between the ages of 15 and 19 is infected with the virus that causes AIDS, said a UN report Wednesday that warned of a “crisis” fuelled by gender inequality.

Girls and young women made up two-thirds of 15- to 19-year-olds infected with HIV in 2017, according to data unveiled at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

Henrietta Fore, head of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), referred to it as a “crisis of health”.

“In most countries, women and girls lack access to information, to services, or even just the power to say no to unsafe sex,” she said.

“HIV thrives among the most vulnerable and marginalised, leaving teenage girls at the centre of the crisis.”

Last year, 130,000 youngsters aged 19 and under died from AIDS, while 430,000 — almost 50 every hour — were newly infected, the agency said.

While AIDS-related deaths have decreased since 2010 in all other age groups, among older adolescents aged 15 to 19 they have remained stubbornly constant.

About 1.2 million 15- to 19-year-olds were living with the immune system-destroying virus in 2017, three in five of them girls, said UNICEF.

“The epidemic’s spread among adolescent girls is being fuelled by early sex, including with older males, forced sex, powerlessness in negotiating about sex, poverty, and lack of access to confidential counselling and testing services,” it pointed out.

Actress and activist Charlize Theron raised the issue in an address to conference delegates on Tuesday.

The AIDS epidemic is “not just about sex or sexuality,” the South African celebrity said. “We know it is linked to the second-class status of women and girls worldwide.”

Affected

Robert Matiru, director of operations for Unitaid, which funds HIV drug projects, said young people are disproportionately affected by the epidemic that has claimed some 35 million lives since it erupted in the 1980s.

“They are the most affected now, across sub-Saharan Africa in particular,” he told AFP.

“Unless we can reach young people and curb the epidemic among them... then we’re not going to meet the targets” of the UN to end AIDS as a public health

threat by 2030.

This requires limiting infections to 500,000 per year by 2020, yet last year they numbered 1.8 million.

A recent report of the International AIDS Society (IAS) highlighted the epidemic’s “extraordinary impact” on adolescent girls and young women.

“Four in 10 adolescent girls (aged 15-19) in Africa have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, and the evidence is that gender-based violence is associated with a significantly greater risk of acquiring HIV,” it said.

“Yet few countries have invested in comprehensive programmes to combat gender-based violence or to ensure ready access to adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.”

According to IAS president Linda-Gail Bekker, “in young people, it (the AIDS epidemic) is far from over.”

“In certain parts of the world we are about to go into the youth bulge, so we’ll have more young people than we’ve ever had in the world before,” she told AFP.

“Young people have grown up, they are incredibly mobile, they are moving, they have forgotten that HIV is a risk factor... we can’t let up on that message, otherwise it just blows up again.”

Meanwhile, AIDS experts called Wednesday for an end to laws that can see HIV-positive people jailed for exposing others to the virus, saying the approach was “unscientific” and worsening the killer epidemic.

At least 68 countries have legislation that criminalises HIV “non-disclosure”, exposure, or transmission, two dozen scientists wrote in a “consensus statement” released at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.

The document, simultaneously published in the Journal of the International AIDS Society (IAS), was signed by HIV co-discoverer Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and IAS president Linda-Gail Bekker, among others.

“These laws are ineffective and unwarranted,” Bekker told journalists in the Dutch capital.

“Rather than reducing HIV infection or protecting anyone, these ill-conceived laws most likely make the epidemic worse by driving people... away from the information and services and indeed into hiding,” she said.

The statement is meant to serve as a synthesis of up-to-date scientific evidence of how HIV can, and cannot, be transmitted.



This March 23, 2017 photo provided by the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre shows brain scans of patient Rick Karr as staff members treat him at the facility in Toronto, Canada. (AP)

Lowering blood pressure helps prevent mental decline

Ultrasound jiggles open brain barrier

WASHINGTON, July 26, (AP): A handful of Alzheimer’s patients signed up for a bold experiment: They let scientists beam sound waves into the brain to temporarily jiggle an opening in its protective shield.

The so-called blood-brain barrier prevents germs and other damaging substances from leaching in through the bloodstream — but it can block drugs for Alzheimer’s, brain tumors and other neurologic diseases, too.

Canadian researchers on Wednesday reported early hints that technology called focused ultrasound can safely poke holes in that barrier — holes that quickly sealed back up — a step toward one day using the non-invasive device to push brain treatments through.

“It’s been a major goal of neuroscience for decades, this idea of a safe and reversible and precise way of breaching the blood-brain barrier,” said Dr Nir Lipsman, a neurosurgeon at Toronto’s Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre who led the study. “It’s exciting.”

The findings were presented at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Chicago and published in Nature Communications.

This first-step research, conducted in just six people with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s, checked if patients’ fragile blood vessels could withstand the breach without bleeding or other side effects — it didn’t test potential therapies.

More safety testing is needed but

“it’s definitely promising,” said Dr Eliezer Masliah of the National Institute on Aging, who wasn’t involved with the study. “What is remarkable is that they could do it in a very focused way, they can target a very specific brain region.”

Alzheimer’s isn’t the only target. A similar safety study is underway in Lou Gehrig’s disease. And researchers are testing if the tool helps more chemotherapy reach the right spot in people with a deadly brain tumor called glioblastoma.

“We don’t want to broadly open the blood-brain barrier everywhere. We want to open the blood-brain barrier where we want the treatment to be delivered,” explained Dr Graeme Woodworth of the University of Maryland Medical Center, who will lead a soon-to-begin brain tumor study.

Success

Scientists have long tried different strategies to overcome the blood-brain barrier with little success. The brain’s blood vessels are lined with cells that form tight junctions, almost like a zipper. The barrier lets in select small molecules. Often, treatments for brain diseases are too big to easily pass.

The new approach: Scientists inject microscopic bubbles into the bloodstream. Through an MRI scanner, they aim at a precise brain area. Then they beam ultrasound waves through a helmet-like device to that spot. The pulses of energy make the microbubbles vi-

brate, loosening those zipper-like junctions in hopes that medications could slip inside.

Within minutes, Lipsman’s team saw a medical dye appear on the Alzheimer’s patients’ brain scans — proof the barrier opened. A repeat scan the next day showed it was closed again. Patients repeated the procedure a month later.

Researchers reported no serious side effects, and no worsening of cognitive function. The study was funded by the non-profit Focused Ultrasound Foundation.

“It’s not painful or anything,” said Rick Karr of Everett, Ontario, the study’s first participant.

A retired truck driver and amateur musician, Karr was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s in 2011. Doctors made clear the study wouldn’t treat his memory problems, but “I feel privileged,” Karr said in an interview. “I could help somebody else down the road.”

A French company, CarThera, is testing a different ultrasound technique for brain tumors, using an implant attached to the skull during surgery.

For the non-invasive ultrasound, device maker InSightec has Food and Drug Administration permission to begin the Maryland tumor trial and a small US Alzheimer’s study.



Lowering blood pressure more than usually recommended not only helps prevent heart problems, it also cuts the

risk of mental decline that often leads to Alzheimer’s disease, a major study finds.

It’s the first time a single step has been clearly shown to help prevent a dreaded condition that has had people trying crossword puzzles, diet supplements and a host of other things in hope of keeping their mind sharp.

In the study, people treated to a top blood pressure reading of 120 instead of 140 were 19 percent less likely to develop mild cognitive impairment. They also had fewer signs of damage on brain scans, and there was a possible trend toward fewer cases of dementia.

“This is a big breakthrough,” said Dr Jeff Williamson of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina. “It’s more important than ever to work with your physician to ensure that you have good blood pressure control.”

He led the study and gave results Wednesday at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Chicago. They’re considered preliminary until published, expected later this year.

Independent experts cheered the news.

“We have long known that high blood pressure is bad for your heart. Now we’re also learning it’s bad for your brain,” said James Hendrix, director of global science initiatives at the Alzheimer’s Association.

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### ADCB profit

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) on Thursday reported a 12 percent rise in second-quarter net profit, due to higher net interest, increased Islamic financing and non-interest income. ADCB made a net profit of 1.13 billion dirhams (\$307.7 million) in the three months ending June 30, up from 1.01 billion

dirhams in the same period of last year, it said in a statement. SICO Bahrain had forecast ADCB would make a second quarter profit of 1.12 billion dirhams. It is the second major Abu Dhabi bank to report earnings after First Abu Dhabi Bank, which earlier this week posted a 19 percent rise in second-quarter profit. (RTRS)

### Turk Telekom squeezed

Turk Telekom has become the latest Turkish company to highlight the ill effects of the falling lira on its finances, saying that unfavourable currency movements were behind the company's second-quarter loss of nearly a billion lira. The falling lira has

also pushed up the cost of repaying dollar- and euro-denominated loans for Turkish companies, including Turk Telekom. Retailers, energy firms and others have borrowed heavily in foreign currencies to take advantage of lower interest rates overseas. (RTRS)

### Turkey secures loan

Turkey has secured a \$3.6 billion loan package from Chinese financial institutions, Finance Minister Berat Albayrak said on Thursday. Albayrak made the comments on Twitter. He said the loan would be provided to private and public institutions and banks to be used for investments in energy and transportation sectors.

#### Also:

Qatar First Bank sold its 20 percent stake in Turkey's Memorial Health Group to majority shareholder Turgut Aydin and his family. Memorial said in a statement on Thursday. (RTRS)

### Al Rajhi profit

Al Rajhi Bank, Saudi Arabia's second-largest lender by assets, reported a 17.7 percent rise in its second-quarter net profit on Thursday, at the high end of analysts' forecasts. The bank made 2.57 billion riyals (\$685 million) in the three months to June 30, up from 2.18 billion riyals in the same period a year earlier, it said in a statement via the stock exchange. The average forecast of three analysts surveyed by Reuters was a net profit of 2.41 billion riyals. (RTRS)

## Market Movements

26-07-2018

		Change	Closing pts
INDIA	- Sensex	+126.41	36,984.64
S. KOREA	- KRX 100	+35.92	4,802.81
FRANCE	- CAC 40	+54.14	5,480.55
GERMANY	- DAX	+229.90	12,809.23
EUROPE	- Euro Stoxx 50	+40.81	3,509.26
PHILIPPINES	- All Shares	+69.99	4,605.52

		Change	Closing pts
JAPAN	- Nikkei	-27.38	22,586.87
HONG KONG	- Hang Seng	-139.76	28,781.14
AUSTRALIA	- All Ordinaries	-4.10	6,337.60

# Business

## Budget deficit narrows by pct

# Egypt's economy grows 5.3 pct, highest in 10 years

CAIRO, July 26, (RTRS): Egypt's gross domestic product grew by 5.3 percent in the 2017-18 fiscal year ending in June, the highest rate in 10 years, Planning Minister Hala al-Saeed said on Wednesday, in a further sign of recovery amid tough reforms and an IMF loan.

Finance Minister Mohamed Maait also said in a statement the country's budget deficit had fallen below 10 percent for the first time since 2011, but gave no precise figures.

Egypt's economy has been battered by years of turmoil that began after mass protests in 2011 forced President Hosni Mubarak to step down.

But the country has been showing signs of recovery in recent months amid tough reforms including cuts to energy subsidies implemented by the government of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as part of a \$12 billion IMF loan agreement aimed at luring back

foreign investments.

Saeed said non-oil exports grew in the fiscal year that ended in June by 12.3 percent to around \$24.1 billion.

She added that the balance of payments had achieved a surplus of around \$11 billion during the first nine months of the fiscal year, attributing that to an 18 percent growth in commodities exports and to growth in the service sector and foreign remittances.

But a survey by Emirates NBD said Egypt's non-oil private-sector business activity has been in contraction for months, with reductions in output and new orders despite a slight improvement in June. Egypt has forecast a 9.8 percent deficit for the fiscal year that ended in June. The country targets a deficit of 8.4 percent in the fiscal year to June 2019.

Meanwhile, Egypt's budget deficit for the 2017-2018 fiscal year was 9.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), down from

## Foreign holdings of Egyptian treasuries \$17.5 bln in June

CAIRO, July 26, (RTRS): Foreign holdings of Egyptian treasuries stood at \$17.5 billion at the close of the fiscal year at the end of June, Finance Minister Mohamed Maait told a news conference on Thursday.

The number represents a sharp drop from the end of March, when holdings stood at \$23.1 billion.

"Around \$3-4 billion in foreign investment in Egyptian government debt exited during the latest emerging markets crisis ... but our yields are still the best among the emerging markets," Maait said.

Egypt's short- and long-term debt yields climbed steadily between April and July as part of a broad global sell-off in emerging markets.

Bankers and economists told Reuters this month that an estimated \$4-5 billion had left Egypt's debt market during the sell-off.

Yields have cooled since, with 12-month yields declining at an auction on Tuesday to an average of 19.134 pct from 19.379 a week earlier. Yields also fell on three-, six-, and nine-month treasuries

auctioned on Tuesday.

Egypt floated its currency in November 2016, as part of an ambitious economic reform plan tied to a \$12 billion IMF loan programme aimed at boosting growth after years of turmoil drove tourists and foreign investors away.

It became one of the world's hottest destinations for portfolio investors last year after short-term yields touched 22 percent, the result of aggressive central bank rate hikes aimed at curbing inflation. Egypt sold \$7 billion in Eu-

robonds in 2017, returning to international markets after turmoil following the overthrow of president Hosni Mubarak in 2011.

"No decision has been made thus far over international bond issuances in 2018-2019 and there will not be any decision for another month or two," Maait said on Thursday.

Former finance minister Amr El Garhy said in April that Egypt aims to issue dollar-denominated Eurobonds worth \$6-7 billion in the 2018-2019 financial year.

10.9 percent the previous year, deputy finance minister Ahmed Kouchouk said on Thursday.

Egypt achieved a primary fiscal surplus for the first time in 15 years, making four billion Egyptian pounds (\$224 million), Kouchouk said in a news conference.

Tax revenues increased by 36 percent in fiscal year 2017-2018, to 628 billion Egyptian pounds, he added.

Egypt increased subsidies on fuel to 121 billion Egyptian

pounds, up from previous projections of 110 billion pounds, Kouchouk said.

The economy has been battered by years of turmoil that began after mass protests in 2011 forced President Hosni Mubarak to step

down. But the country has been showing signs of recovery in recent months amid tough reforms including cuts to energy subsidies implemented by the government of el-Sisi as part of a \$12 billion IMF loan agreement.



Safa Fakher Lazem 26, who holds a bachelor's degree and works in a shoe repair shop is shown in Baghdad, Iraq. Mismanagement since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein has increased joblessness nationwide, posing threat to stability in southern Iraq. (AP)

## Overall jobless rate hits 11.2 pct: WB

## Soaring unemployment fuels protests in the southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, July 26, (AP): For more than three years after graduation, Karar Alaa Abdul-Wahid tried to get a stable job in the Iraqi government and in the private sector — to no avail.

He once was offered a job with the Oil Ministry in his energy-rich hometown of Basra, but it came with a hefty price: he would have to pay a bribe of \$5,000, which he couldn't afford.

"Every place has a copy of my resume attached with a request for job," Abdul-Wahid, a graduate of the Basra Technical Institution, told The Associated Press by phone from the southern city.

"If you are well-connected mainly among political parties and have money, you will get any job you dream of," Abdul-Wahid said. "If not, you will get nothing."

Mismanagement since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein has increased joblessness nationwide. In more recent years, idle young men were lured into the ranks of militant extremists, and now unemployment is fueling violent protests in the capital of Baghdad and the Shiite heartland in the south.

Demonstrations involving thousands of people broke out this month in Basra province, protesting the lack of jobs and poor public services, including frequent power outages.

### Heavy

According to the World Bank, the overall unemployment rate in Iraq stands at 11.2 percent and is nearly twice that, 21.6 percent, in areas that once were under Islamic State control and endured heavy destruction from military operations that officially ended late last year.

As of 2014, the poverty rate increased from 19.8 percent in 2012 to an estimated 22.5 percent, it added.

In Basra, a city of more than 4 million, the unemployment rate

shot up sharply to at least 30 percent, according to deputy Gov. Dhirgham al-Ajwadi.

Between 30,000 and 35,000 students graduate from the city's private and government universities and institutions, and most of them end up without jobs, he said, blaming federal officials for not focusing on what the labor market needs.

The Basra protests have spread to other cities and threatened to paralyze the oil industry, the life-line of Iraq's economy. They have derailed traffic at main ports on the Persian Gulf and neighboring Iran and Kuwait.

### Unrest

To contain the unrest, the federal government promised an urgent allocation of 3.5 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$3 billion) for electricity and water projects, as well as 10,000 jobs.

But the requests for jobs exceed that number, with more than 85,000 people applying so far, al-Ajwadi said. "Till now, there is no plan on how and when this will be implemented."

Unemployment has been one of the thorniest issues for the government, with 70 percent of Iraqis under age 40 looking for work.

The eldest of six children, the 26-year-old Abdul-Wahid has taken a series of unstable jobs since 2015 to help his family. But he recently got an idea he saw while surfing the internet: selling hot and iced drinks around the city from a vehicle.

"I liked it because it's something new and no one did it before in Basra," he said.

He borrowed money from relatives and friends to buy and modify a small car. Then approached a coffee-machine supplier, which helped him with a free machine and discounts on supplies.

He now roams Basra's streets, offering various types of coffee, tea and other hot and cold beverages. He makes around 900,000 Iraqi dinar (about \$750) a month.

KUWAIT CITY, July 26, (KUNA): National Mobile Telecommunication Company, Ooredoo Kuwait, announced Wednesday net profits of KD 12.2 million (\$40.3 million) for the first half of 2018.

Earnings Per Share (EPS) reached 24 fils for the first half of 2018, the company said in a press statement.

The company's net profits have decreased by 48 percent due to Ooredoo Algeria's low contribution as a result of ineffective economic environment, weak currency, and low competitive prices, it added.

The revenues for the first half of 2018 stood at KD 341 million (\$1.1 billion), a decrease by one percent, compared to KD 343 million (\$1.13 billion) for the same period of 2017, said Ooredoo.

Furthermore, the company's customer base has reached 26.1 million for the first half of 2018, up by two percent, compared to the same period of 2017, it noted.

For his part, Ooredoo's Chairman Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al-Thani said demand for the company's products and services continued at good levels.

He pointed out the recent increase in Ooredoo's customer base, which surpassed 26 million, despite the current difficult conditions and challenges in the telecom markets.

Established in Dec 1999, Ooredoo Kuwait, formerly known as Wataniya Telecom, provides mobile, broadband internet, and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses in the country.

## Kuwait to halt Bab oil exports

KUWAIT CITY, July 26, (Agencies): Kuwait is studying whether to halt oil exports through Bab al-Mandeb strait, an oil official said, after Saudi Arabia said it was suspending all crude shipments through the Red Sea lane following an attack on two of its tankers.

"All options are possible but there is nothing confirmed so far," Badr al-Khashhi, chairman of Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), told Reuters, adding no decision had been taken.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement attacked two Saudi oil tankers on Wednesday. The Bab al-Mandeb strait, where the Red Sea meets the Gulf of Aden in the Arabian Sea, is only 20 kms (12 miles) wide, making hundreds of ships potentially an easy target.

The price of Kuwaiti oil went up 91 cents Wednesday to reach \$71.91 per barrel (pb), after being at \$71.00 pb last Tuesday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Thursday.



Boursa Kuwait ended trading Thursday on mixed board as the premier market index went up 23.34 points to reach 5,378.62 points. (KUNA)

## Insurer excludes coverage

## India's HPCL cancels Iran oil shipment

NEW DELHI, July 26, (RTRS): India's Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) cancelled the purchase of an Iranian oil cargo earlier this month after its insurance company refused to provide coverage for the crude because of US sanctions, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

HPCL, India's third-biggest state-owned refiner, renewed its installation insurance, which protects against any accidents at its refinery or storage sites, in early July. However, the new policy would not protect against any incidents involving Iranian oil processed or stored at its refineries, the sources said.

The refiner had planned to load 1 million barrels of Iranian crude onto the Suezmax tanker Ankaleshwar in early July but cancelled the purchase after it was unable to sell it on to another buyer, said the sources who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

India is the second-biggest buyer of Iranian crude after China and without insurance coverage to pro-

tect their plants, the country's refineries may have to cut off their imports earlier than anticipated.

The United States said in May it plans to re-impose some sanctions against Iran starting in August, with full sanctions in place by November, after withdrawing from a 2015 accord with Iran limiting its nuclear program.

"HPCL faced problems in lifting cargo from Iran because its annual insurance policy was renewed in July after the US pulled out of the nuclear deal in May," said one of the sources, adding the company will not be able to lift any Iranian oil.

HPCL's Iranian imports account for only 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) of its full demand of 316,000 bpd but other Indian refiners that take larger volumes are likely to face the same problem if their annual policy is up for renewal before November.

HPCL did not respond to requests from Reuters for a comment. Companies have until Nov 4 to fully wind down activities with Iran or risk exclusion from the US

financial system. However, banks, shipping firms and insurance companies are already cutting ties with Iran and without financing or insurance coverage refiners will have to halt their purchases.

Iran had hoped to sell more than 500,000 bpd of oil to India during the current fiscal year that started in April, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said in February.

However, the insurance issues may mean a reduction in imports even as India is intent on continuing dealings with Iran.

"The problem in procuring Iranian barrels appears to be happening much before the Nov 4 deadline," said Senthil Kumaran, a senior analyst at consultants FGE. "Most of the reinsurance market is based in the US so without the blessing of the US, Iranian oil buyers will find it almost impossible to take and process Iranian cargoes."

Indian insurers rely on state-run General Insurance Corp for reinsurance, which depends on western re-insurers to hedge its risk. General Insurance did not reply to a request for comment.



German shoppers fret over trade tensions: survey

German consumer confidence is expected to dip slightly in August, a survey said Thursday, as shoppers warily eye an unfolding trade war between the European Union and the United States.

Market research firm GfK said its forward-looking poll of around 2,000 people slipped to 10.6, or 0.1 points lower than in July.

“German consumers are becoming more and more convinced that international crises will slow German growth,” the pollsters said in a statement.

“Especially the escalating trade conflict with the US could impact export-nation Germany.”

But even as consumers fret over the economic outlook, they remain optimistic about their own income prospects and spending plans thanks to a solid labour market and low interest rates.

“Despite the geopolitical uncertainty, Germans remain in the mood to shop,” GfK noted.

Trade tensions have risen since President Donald Trump hit steel and aluminium imports to the US with hefty tariffs and threatened to do the same to European cars, after the European Union retaliated with border taxes on American goods.

Germany’s mighty auto industry would be among those worst hit by the potential car tariffs. (AFP)

Shares in German carmakers BMW and Volkswagen surged more than 4.0 percent Thursday morning before falling back, as investors welcomed an EU-US agreement to smooth over trade differences that could have harmed the industry.

Volkswagen stock was up 3.0 percent at 150.32 euros (\$176.28) by 0750 GMT, while BMW had gained 2.4 percent to trade at 81.81 euros, against a

EU-US trade lifts BMW, VW shares

DAX index of blue-chip German shares up 1.35 percent.

But Mercedes-Benz Daimler lost out, shedding 0.5 percent to trade at 57.58 euros after reporting disappointing second-quarter results.

US President Donald Trump and EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday they would launch a “new phase” in the transatlantic trading relationship.

Juncker had travelled to the

White House for last-ditch talks to fend off American tariffs on car imports.

Trump had previously ordered the Department of Commerce to look into charging border taxes of up to 25 percent on vehicles from the EU.

Washington and Brussels will “work together towards zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies on non-auto industrial goods,” Trump said. (AFP)

‘Backing off’ auto tariffs, US and Europe agree to more trade talks

EU to buy natural gas, soybeans

WASHINGTON, July 26, (AFP): President Donald Trump and European leaders pulled back from the brink of a trade war over autos Wednesday and agreed to open talks to tear down trade barriers between the United States and the European Union.

But while politicians and businesses welcomed the deal Thursday, the agreement was vague, the negotiations are sure to be contentious, and the United States remains embroiled in major trade disputes with China and other countries.

In a hastily called Rose Garden appearance with Trump, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said the US and the EU had agreed to hold off on new tariffs, suggesting that the United States will suspend plans to start taxing European auto imports — a move that would have marked a major escalation in trade tensions between the allies.

Trump also said the EU had agreed to buy “a lot of soybeans” and increase its imports of liquefied natural gas from the US. And the two agreed to resolve a dispute over US tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday addressing steel and aluminum tariffs and counter tariffs would be covered in the first phase of talks between the US and the EU. He reiterated that no new tariffs would be imposed during the negotiations and if the US concluded an agreement, “there would be no car tariffs on the EU.”

Trump was traveling to Iowa and Illinois Thursday in which his trade agenda was expected to be a leading issue. The administration recently announced a \$12 billion temporary aid package for farmers — including soybean producers — dealing with the impact of retaliatory tariffs.

Encouraging

“It’s encouraging that they’re talking about freer trade rather than trade barriers and an escalating tariff war,” said Rufus Yerxa, president of the National Foreign Trade Council and a former US trade official. But he said reaching a detailed trade agreement with the EU would likely prove difficult.

The tone was friendlier than it has been. During a recent European trip, Trump referred to the EU as a “foe, what they do to us in trade.” The EU’s Juncker said in March, after Trump imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, that “this is basically a stupid process, the fact that we have to do this. But we have to do it. We can also do stupid.”

On Wednesday, Trump and Juncker said they have agreed to work toward “zero tariffs” and “zero subsidies” on non-automotive goods.

Trump told reporters it was a “very big day for free and fair trade” and later tweeted a photo of himself and Juncker in an embrace, with Juncker kissing his cheek.

“Obviously the European Union, as represented by @JunckerEU and the United States, as represented by yours truly, love each other!” he wrote.

The agreement was welcomed by political and business leaders in Ger-



US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (left) give a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC, on July 25. (AFP)

Monetary stimulus settings unchanged: ECB

‘Rates will remain low for months’

FRANKFURT, Germany, July 26, (AP): The European Central Bank is stressing that interest rates will stay low well into next year even as the US Federal Reserve is expected to keep raising rates in coming months.

The central bank for the 19 countries that use the euro left its key rates and monetary stimulus settings unchanged at a meeting Thursday at its headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany.

ECB President head Mario Draghi’s told a news conference that while the eurozone economy is enjoying solid growth, it still needs “significant monetary policy stimulus.”

The bank has said it will phase out its bond-buying stimulus program by year-end, and will keep interest rates on hold “through the summer” of 2019. Speculation on what that means has ranged from July to September or even later.

The ECB is withdrawing stimulus as the economy grows, but doing it so slowly that its path is diverging sharply from that of the Fed, which is already raising rates. The Fed has withdrawn

stimulus more quickly because the US economy emerged from the Great Recession more quickly, and now has lower unemployment.

The rich world’s major central banks — also including the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan — are slowly withdrawing stimulus measures they deployed to support the economy during and after the global financial crisis and Great Recession.

The end of the stimulus will have wide-ranging effects, such as increasing borrowing costs for governments and home buyers. By raising returns on safe assets such as bonds and savings accounts, it could also make those holdings more attractive relative to stocks and change investor attitudes toward the risks of the longstanding bull market. The ECB is proceeding gingerly to avoid market disruptions.

ECB officials have expressed confidence that inflation is sustainably trending toward their goal of just under 2 percent. It came in at 2 percent in June, although when excluding volatile items like oil and food, prices remain

weaker. The central bankers are still keeping a wary eye on recent signs of weaker growth, and on the chance that a trade conflict between the United States and other countries could hurt global trade and thus the export-dependent European economy.

Draghi welcomed a tentative agreement between the EU and US on Wednesday that put a halt to any new tariffs and sought to reduce existing ones.

“It shows that there is a willingness to discuss trade issues in a multilateral trade framework again,” he said.

Lower exchange rates in the eurozone can help keep the euro’s exchange rate lower against the dollar, which helps European exporters.

The ECB’s short-term benchmark rate was unchanged at a record low of zero, as was the negative 0.4 percent rate on deposits it takes from banks. That is a penalty aimed at pushing the banks to lend and support the economy rather than hoard the money. By comparison, the Fed’s key rate is in a range between 1.75 percent and 2 percent and more rate increases are expected this year.

many, the EU’s biggest economy, though their relief was tempered with caution that details have to be firmed up.

“Very demanding and intensive negotiations lie ahead of us,” German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said, vowing that “we will represent and defend our European interests just as emphatically as the US does with its interests.” He said the Trump-Juncker accord was “a good start — it takes away many people’s worries that the global economy could suffer serious damage in the coming months from a trade war.” Trump campaigned on a vow to get tough on trading partners he accuses of taking advantage of bad

trade deals to run up huge trade surpluses with the US.

He has slapped taxes on imported steel and aluminum, saying they pose a threat to US national security. The US and EU are now working to resolve their differences over steel and aluminum — but the tariffs are still in place. And they would continue to hit US trading partners like Canada, Mexico and Japan even if the US and the EU cut a deal.

Whatever progress was achieved Wednesday could provide some relief for US automakers. The escalating trade war and tariffs on steel and aluminum had put pressure on auto companies’ earnings. General Motors

slashed its outlook, and shares of Ford Motor Co and auto parts companies have fallen.

“Our biggest exposure, our biggest unmitigated exposure, is really steel and aluminum when you look at all of the commodities,” GM CEO Mary Barra said Wednesday.

Trump has also imposed tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese imports — a figure he has threatened to raise to \$500 billion — in a dispute over Beijing’s aggressive drive to supplant US technological dominance.

China has counterpunched with tariffs on American products, including soybeans and pork — a shot at Trump supporters in the US heartland.

France demands clarifications

Concerns linger in Europe after US and EU tariff truce

BRUSSELS, July 26, (Agencies): European capitals on Thursday welcomed the trade truce announced by the EU and US but doubts lingered over its feasibility and the changing moods of President Donald Trump.

Trump and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker on Wednesday announced a plan to defuse a lingering trade row, that in effect saw Washington back off a threat of auto tariffs against Europe, at least for now.

Germany unsurprisingly hailed the decision, given their world dominating auto industry was the first in line to be punished by Trump’s protectionist offensive.

But France quickly spoke out in anger, with Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire demanding “clarifications” over the agreed measures.

Critics of the agreement were especially miffed that existing steel and aluminium tariffs will remain in place despite the White House meeting.

“A good business discussion can only be conducted on a clear basis and cannot be conducted under pressure,” said Le Maire.

These comments contrasted greatly with comments out of Berlin, where the spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed the “constructive” meeting.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte also welcomed the “positive outcome of the conversation.”

Vague

The details of the deal in Washington remained vague, with a statement mentioning that the transatlantic allies would “launch a new phase” in the relationship.

The would prioritise “to work together towards zero tariffs, zero non-tariff barriers, and zero subsidies on non-auto industrial goods,” a statement said.

In addition, the EU has made a commitment to buy US soybeans and natural gas, though how the EU could deliver that pledge remained unclear.

“Did Juncker make a commitment to US on market access to the US on soybeans? That would be very worrisome, that would be rewarding Trump threats on tariffs,” said Rem Korteweg, head of the Europe in the World unit at think-tank Clingendael.

France’s Le Maire singled out this pledge as especially problematic, given deep concerns over the GMO’s in US soybean production that falls foul of EU norms.

France will insist that agricultural goods “remain outside the scope of the discussions” ensuring that “Europe will not compromise with its standards,” he said.

“These possible negotiations will not concern agricultural goods, there may be some reference to soybeans,” an EU official said on condition of anonymity, adding that the increased imports were already reflected on the market.

The condition for the deal was that Trump hold off on slapping tariffs on auto imports.

Trump had previously ordered the Department of Commerce to look into charging border taxes of up to 25 percent on vehicles from the EU and it was yet unknown if the US would close the process.

Trump also won a commitment to work together to reform the World Trade Organization to address some of his complaints about China on theft of US technology, the behaviour of state-owned enterprises, and overcapacity in steel.

He has long complained that the WTO has been unfair to the United States, despite the fact the US has won most of the disputes against China and others.

The US and EU account for about \$1 trillion in transatlantic trade, and tensions spiked leading up to Wednesday’s high-stakes talks.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom, who accompanied Juncker, hailed the agreement and said on Twitter that she “will be working hard to take this work forward the coming months.”

Reaction on financial markets ranged from enthusiasm on stock exchanges to scepticism among currency investors, while commodities experts said Trump’s proclamation that Europe would buy “lots of” soybeans from US farmers hit by his trade row with China was not all that it seemed.

Meeting

After meeting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker at the White House on Wednesday, Trump agreed to refrain from imposing car tariffs while the European Union and the United States start talks on cutting other trade barriers.

Talks would seek to “resolve” US tariffs on steel and aluminium and Europe’s retaliatory duties, a step back from Trump’s import protections for US metal producers.

German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier, a conservative, hailed the talks as a “breakthrough” that could avoid a trade war and save millions of jobs. “Great for global economy,” he tweeted late on Wednesday.

Business lobbies were relieved. “Reason has prevailed,” BusinessEurope President Pierre Gattaz said.

However, Germany’s DIHK chambers of Commerce noted that US auto tariffs were not totally off the table. “The proposed solutions move in the right direction but a significant proportion of scepticism remains,” the DIHK said.

European stocks rose on Thursday, with shares in carmakers Fiat, Porsche, Volkswagen and BMW all up by between 2 and 5 percent.

Reaction from Social Democrat members of the German coalition government was more measured. “This is not yet the result we are aiming for but it has made a positive result in the whole discussion ... on free trade or protectionism more likely than before,” Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in Seoul.

Referring to Trump’s description of the European Union earlier this month as a “foe” on trade, he told a news conference: “America and Europe are not opponents ... We are partners and allies with common values and interests.”

Answer

“The answer to America First can only be: Europe United,” he added.

European Central Bank President Mario Draghi called the Washington meeting a good sign. “It shows that there is a willingness to discuss trade issues in a multilateral framework again,” he said, but added: “It would be difficult for us to go beyond that because we really don’t know the substance of it.”

The response from France was also cautious. Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire welcomed the discussions with Washington but said he does not want to enter into a wide-ranging negotiation.

“Each side, the Europeans and the Americans, must find something in these discussions. Any trade deal must be based on reciprocity,” he said in remarks distributed by his office.

With French framers forming a strong lobby, Le Maire added that agriculture must remain outside of any negotiation as Europe could not ease its food safety and environmental norms.

Britain and Germany welcome US-EU trade reprieve

LONDON, July 26, (RTRS): Britain welcomed an initiative agreed between US President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to cut trade barriers, easing the threat of a transatlantic trade war.

Trump said the talks would seek to “resolve” US tariffs on steel and aluminum and Europe’s retaliatory duties.

“We welcome the agreement by the US and the EU to work together to reduce barriers to trade and to further increase trade and investment,” Britain’s Department for International Trade said in a statement.

“We look forward to progress towards the removal of steel and aluminium tariffs and de-escalation of the tit-for-tat action that could harm businesses and jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.”

In Berlin, Germany welcomed an initiative agreed between US President Donald Trump and the head of the European Commission to ease the threat of a trade war and shares rose on the news, but business groups urged the two sides to back up their words with deeds.

mission President Jean-Claude Juncker at the White House on Wednesday, Trump agreed to refrain from imposing car tariffs while they start talks on cutting other trade barriers.

European stocks jumped in morning trade on Thursday, with the trade initiative buoying shares in carmakers. Shares in Fiat, Porsche, Volkswagen and BMW all rose by between 2 and 5 percent.

Daimler was up just 1.03 percent in volatile trade at 0915 GMT after its second-quarter profit was hit by weaker pricing and tariffs.

Trump and Juncker said talks would seek to “resolve” US tariffs on steel and aluminum and Europe’s retaliatory duties, a step back from Trump’s import protections for US metal producers.

“This is not yet the result we are aiming for but it has made a positive result in the whole discussion...on free trade or protectionism more likely than before,” German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told a news conference in Seoul.

“America and Europe are not opponents...We are partners and allies with common values and interests,” Maas said, adding it was good that the two would also work on unfair trade practices and on a reform of the World Trade Organisation.

“The answer to America First can only be: Europe United,” he said.

German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier was even more enthusiastic, hailing the talks as a “breakthrough” that could avoid a trade war and save millions of jobs. “Great for global economy,” he tweeted late on Wednesday.

US import tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum imposed in March will stay in place during the talks, and Trump said Europe had agreed to raise purchases of liquefied natural gas and lower trade barriers to American soybeans.

Germany’s deputy government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer tweeted “The German government welcomes the agreement on a constructive course of action on trade. The European Commission can count on our continued support.”

Germany’s VDA automotive association welcomed the EU-US agreement to take steps to ease the threat of a transatlantic trade war, saying it offered a real opportunity to avert further tariffs.



Al-Shall Report

Oil price boom has improved financial conditions of GCC states

S&P pegs Kuwait's '18 GDP growth at 9.6 pct

**Fake Degrees (Certificates)**  
The government is interested neither in education quality nor in its safety. Since the 1980s, labor market and its wages are unrelated to the need or competence, but to the certificate, authentic, poor or fake. Promotion in public administration needs certificate of a different type, i.e. a certificate from an influential personality only. Directly post Kuwait's liberation, the government submitted precedence in the world when it offered an educational discount in the form of "one-year study and you will be promoted 2 stages" as in sale promotions, says Al-Shall Weekly Economic Report prepared by Al-Shall Consulting Co headed by Jassem Al-Saadoun.

In a meeting with an official, before or after that period, he stated that his protest or threat by resignation if the appointment of teachers in a higher education at institution with degrees from non-credited universities has been approved. The threat has been defeated by an order from a senior government official to be tolerated with them as they are our children. This indicates to be tolerant with those who spoil the minds of our children. In November 2015, MP Faisal Al-Shaya received a response from the civil service commission that 5763 civil workers have received their degrees without leaving their offices during 1992-2014 period. No doubt, the same number or more got these degrees by joining educational institutions but without sincere education. "Al Qabas" newspaper published in May 2016 that someone confessed that he enabled 600 clients to obtain fake certificates against KD 5,000 per certificate. After all that talk and events and for more than a decade, no one in the Higher Education cared to review the accreditation system through which one person alone -as claimed- to accredit several hundred fake degrees over 7 years. Surprisingly, he was discovered by the CID at the ministry of interior.

Education is the foundation for the rising of a nation or its failure. Singapore, South Korea, Finland and China are examples for rising due to good education quality. Egypt and Kuwait are unfortunately examples on the opposite direction. That epidemic has been so tolerated so that it intensified and proliferated at the highest decision-making levels. It has become like the huge financial institutions after the 2008 financial crisis with their big influence. In the case of Kuwait's fake certificates, it will receive severe influential resistance if an attempt to disclose to its champions. Any development project is meaning-less and will not succeed without eradication and up-rooting of their cancerous pest, and start building of new and firm rules for the educational system.

We know that the "Supreme Council for Planning and Development" reached conclusion close to ours, but quit late though it is correct. Its opinion is advisory. Its vision about education will not be any better than hundreds of pieces of advice received and ignored by the government. What is at stake is a homeland destiny and future, with corruption proliferating in of all its components. The most dangerous thing is the corruption of the people. The current situation is not only very costly and with wrong decisions taken by fake-degrees holders but also destructive to an entire generation from recipients of their knowledge or experience. From former and declared corruption experience, we do not feel optimistic that confronting corruption of fake degrees and education will go to its correct ending. The punishment will fall on an expatriate at the Higher Education similar to the Municipality office boy and the Ports' guard and some scapegoats of non-significant persons.

**Standard & Poor's Affirmed Kuwait's Ratings**  
"S&P" Agency for credit classification reaffirmed its good credit rating for Kuwait at AA/A-1+ for both the short and long terms to Kuwait, with a stable future outlook, which is good as we have repeatedly stated. But it is a credit classification to reassure creditors or those who wish to deal with Kuwait. The report states that the stable future outlook means that Kuwait's external balances will remain strong over the next two years, supported by the large financial assets which allow balancing risks of oil price fluctuations, failure to diversify sources of income, and rise of the heated geopolitical risks in the region. The Agency states it may lower its rating if its analysis leads to loss of Kuwait's currency elasticity, or if the internal political conditions worsen, or if heat of the geopolitical events in the territory increases. It may raise its rating if an internal political reform is achieved and promotes the influence of the State's institutions and prospects of economic reform in the long term to achieve diversification of income sources. The Agency does not believe that such scenario would be achieved in the near future.



The photo shows Boursa Kuwait trading floor. The market was mixed during the week.

We believe that what the Agency reported is one of the best writings of credit rating institutions. Without equivocation, it attributes all its good rating to the volume of foreign financial assets. It addresses financial dealers with Kuwait and does not mean the interior. When talking about the interior, it states not only the absence of financial and economic reform, but also states that the humble beginnings have been postponed after the first rise in oil prices. Oil, after all reform announcements, still represents 55% of GDP and more than 90% of Kuwait's exports, and 90% of the general budget revenues. The Agency does not predict a bright future for the oil market. Its relatively high forecast for Brent price average in 2018 at US\$ 65 per barrel will not last and it will drop to US\$ 60 per barrel in 2019 and then to US\$ 55 a barrel in 2020. Financial difficulties will return and will coincide with economic difficulties. The Agency mentions that the average oil prices reaching US\$ 55 a barrel in 2017, reduced the GDP growth rate of Kuwait by -2.9%. The Agency forecasts that the general budget will achieve surplus if oil and investment income are included under general revenue, and this is a professional error. It expects the current account surplus will fall from 9.6% of GDP for 2018 to 6.2%, 3.1%, and 2.5%

for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively.

To summarize, sustainability of public finance and of the economy together with political stability are still tethered almost entirely on oil market developments. The foreign lender should be assured within the term of its loan repayment of Kuwait's potentials or on forcing it to pay. But the financial and the economic reforms are disabled as long as the financial reserves guarantee buying time for the country's economic and financial management. Prudent proactive policies are no more than banners.

The Gulf (GCC) and Oil Market's Recovery

In January of 2016 Brent crude price average dropped to nearly US\$ 30.70 a barrel and on January 20th 2016, Kuwait oil price dropped to about US\$ 19.14 per barrel. That price was below any month level after the global financial crisis in 2008. The average price of a barrel of Brent crude for the first half of 2018 scored US\$ 70.65, i.e. more than double the prices in January 2016. While panic struck all oil-exporting countries in 2016, and some did not recover because it crossed the reform potential, like Venezuela, all other oil countries provided visions for their financial and economic conditions reform. However, they were recently hit by early relaxation signs for those efforts with the first rise in oil prices this year.

Fitch Ratings Inc. issued a report on July 19th testing the resilience and quality of reform visions in the Gulf oil-exporting States with its current high prices. The Agency believes that some of these States returned to their expansionary monetary policies with the first cycle of boom in oil prices. That would likely return them to difficult financial conditions with the first cycle of a forthcoming recession to prices. Oil price boom starting in 2018 improved the financial conditions of the six Gulf States; budgets of three of them will achieve surplus starting from the current year and in 2019 and 2020 beginning with Kuwait (including investment income), then Abu Dhabi, except for 2020, and Qatar. And three other States will lower the fiscal deficits, the best of which is Saudi Arabia. It will drop for Oman and Bahrain much more than in 2017 though it will remain exhaustive and increasing in 2019 and 2020.

The report states that the improvement has been achieved from a combination of high oil prices and compression of public expenditures particularly the current ones, and from adjusting subsidies to fuel prices and some public services, and imposing certain taxes in the cases of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab

Emirates such as the VAT.

Fitch mentions that except for Kuwait whose budget balance price point (breakeven price) has been constant for the period from 2011 to 2014 and even in 2019 estimates, other States managed to reduce it though with differences. In Bahrain, it dropped from more than US\$ 120 to less than US\$ 100. For Oman it dropped from over US\$ 100 to about US\$ 82. For KSA, it dropped from US\$ 85 to about US\$ 70. For Abu Dhabi it dropped from about US\$ 79 to about US\$ 61, and for Qatar it dropped from about US\$ 68 to about US\$ 50. With a hypothetical price for a barrel of oil at US\$ 70, Bahrain and Oman will remain facing a deficit, higher for Bahrain. Saudi budget will achieve balance by the year 2019, while Abu Dhabi, Qatar and Kuwait will continue to achieve

financial surplus. We would like to recall that all Gulf States are financially tied to the movement of oil prices and that Kuwait was the only country that missed financial reform. In fact, it was the only one whose budget balance price rose slightly from the 2011-2014 period level and by counting investment income.

Gulf Bank Financial Results – First Half 2018

Gulf Bank announced its results for the first half of the current year which indicate that the bank achieved profits (after tax deductions) of KD 26.81 million, an increase by KD 4.05 million or by 17.8% compared with KD 22.76 million in June 2017. This rise in the bank profits is due to the rise in total absolute operating income by a higher than the rise in total operating expenses. Therefore, the operating profit rose by about KD 4.6 million and scored KD 65.1 million versus KD 60.5 million.

In details, total operating income scored KD 97.1 million indicating a rise by KD 6.8 million or by 7.6%, compared with KD 90.3 million due to a rise in the item of net interest income by about KD 13.4 million or by 21.1%, reaching KD 76.9 million (79.2% of total income) versus KD 63.5 million (70.3% of total income). Item of other income decreased by KD 2.7 million and scored KD 414 thousand versus KD 3.1 million in the previous year. The bank didn't achieve any profits from the item of realized gains from disposal of investment securities, while it achieved KD 2.7 million in the same period of last year.

Total operating expenses of the bank rose by a lesser value than the rise in total operating income. The rise registered at KD 2.26 million or by 7.6%, and scored KD 32.03 million compared with KD 29.77 million in the first half of 2017, due to the rise in all items of operating expenses. Percentage of total operating expenses to total operating income scored 33%, which is similar to the previous year due to the rise in total operating expenses and the rise in total operating income by 7.6% for both. Total provisions increased by KD 335 thousand i.e. 0.9%, and scored KD 37 million versus KD 36.7 million. Therefore, the bank's net profit margin rose to 27.6% of total operating income compared to 25.2% in June 2017.

Financial statements show that the bank's total assets increased by KD 157.8 million or by 2.8%, to KD 5.841 billion versus KD 5.683 billion in the end 2017. Total assets increased by KD 203.2 million or by 3.6%, when compared with its value in the same period of 2017 when it scored KD 5.638 billion. Item of Cash and cash equivalents rose by KD 117.2 million or by 24.6%, and scored KD 529.6 million (10.1% of total assets) versus KD 475.4 million (8.4% of total assets), but it dropped by KD 87.3 million or by 12.8%, versus KD 679.9 million (12.1% of total assets) in the first half of 2017. Item of loans and advances to customers also increased by KD 70 million or by 1.8%, and scored KD 3.879 billion (66.4% of total assets) versus KD 3.809 billion (67% of total assets) in the end of 2017. It rose by KD 361.1 million or by 10.3%, when compared with the same period of 2017 when it scored KD 3.518 billion (62.4% of total assets). Per-

centage of total loans and advances to customers to total deposits and other balances scored 77% versus 72.2%. Item of treasury bills and bonds decreased by KD 86.1 million or by 15.2%, and scored KD 480.7 million (8.2% of total assets) versus KD 566.8 million (10% of total assets). When compared with the same period of 2017, the item rose by KD 25.4 million or by 5.6%, versus KD 455.3 million (8.1% of total assets).

Figures indicate that the Bank's liabilities (excluding total equity) increased by KD 159.3 million or by 3.1%, to about KD 5.241 billion compared with the end of 2017 when it scored about KD 5.082 billion. It increased by KD 180.9 million at a 3.6% growth rate, when compared with the first half of 2017. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored 89.7% versus 89.8% during the same period of the previous year.

Results of analyzing financial statements calculated on annual basis indicate that all bank profitability indexes increased compared with the same period of 2017. Average return on assets (ROA) rose to 0.93% versus 0.82%. Average return on capital (ROC) increased to 17.6% versus 14.9%. Average return on equities (ROE) rose to 9.1% versus 7.9%. The bank's earnings per share (EPS) rose to 9 fils versus 8 fils. (P/E) scored 13.2 times (improved) versus 15.4 times, as a result of increased (EPS) by 14.3% compared with a drop in the share market price by 4%. (P/B) scored 1.2 times compared to 1.3 times for the same period of 2017.

The Weekly Performance of Boursa Kuwait

The performance of Boursa Kuwait for last week was mixed compared to the previous one where the traded value, traded volume and the number of transactions showed a decrease, while the general index showed an increase. AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 433.8 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing an increase by 1.0 points or by 0.2% compared with its level last week, it also increased by 46.8 points or by 12.1% compared with the end of 2017.

The following tables summarize last week's performance of Boursa Kuwait.

Description	Week 30 26/07/2018	Week 29 19/07/2018	Diff %
Working days	5	5	
AlShall index (33 Companies)	433.8	432.8	0.2%
Bourse All Share Market Index	5,226.0	5,210.9	0.3%
Value Trade (KD)	105,704,644	144,695,409	
Daily average (KD)	21,140,929	28,939,082	-26.9%
Volume Trade (Shares)	458,367,893	628,317,593	
Daily average (Shares)	91,673,579	125,663,519	-27.0%
Transactions	21,631	27,814	
Daily average (Transactions)	4,326	5,563	-22.2%

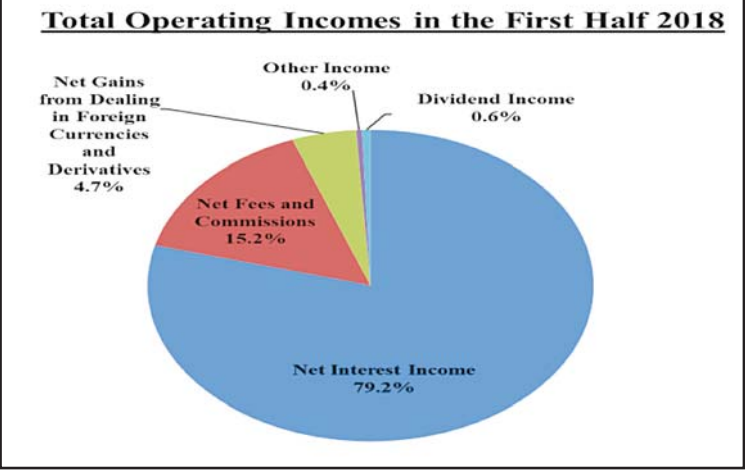
Most Active Sectors & Companies

Description	Value Traded KD	% of Total Market
Companies		
Integrated Holding Co	17,986,829	17.0%
Kuwait Finance House	15,834,131	15.0%
Ahli United Bank (S.C)	9,292,201	8.8%
Kuwait International Bank	7,322,228	6.9%
Humansoft Holding Co.	6,848,254	6.5%
Total	57,283,643	54.2%
Description	Value Traded KD	% Of Total Market
Sectors		
Banks Sector	50,736,628	48.0%
Industrials Sector	31,784,322	30.1%
Financial Services Sector	8,439,482	8.0%
Telecommunications Sector	5,876,365	5.6%
Real Estate Sector	4,796,365	4.5%
ALSHALL INDEX	Week 30 26/07/2018	Week 29 19/07/2018
Increased Value (# of Companies)	10	10
Decreased Value (# of Companies)	17	20
Unchanged Value (# of Companies)	6	3
Total Companies	33	33

	30/06/2018 (Thousand KD)	30/06/2017 (Thousand KD)	Change Value	%	
Total Assets	5,841,178	5,638,026	203,152	3.6%	↑
Total liabilities	5,241,448	5,060,533	180,915	3.6%	↑
Total Equity	599,730	577,493	22,237	3.9%	↑
Total Operating Income	97,101	90,268	6,833	7.6%	↑
Total Operating Expenses	32,033	29,774	2,259	7.6%	↑
Provision	36,997	36,662	335	0.9%	↑
Taxation	1,257	1,068	189	17.7%	↑
Net income	26,814	22,764	4,050	17.8%	↑
Ratios					
**Return on Average Assets (ROA)	0.93%	0.82%			↑
**Return on Average Equity (ROE)	9.1%	7.9%			↑
**Return on Average Capital (ROC)	17.6%	14.9%			↑
Earnings per share (EPS) – (Fils)	9	8	1	12.5%	↑
Closing price – (Fils)	237	247	-10	-4.0%	↓
*Price to Earnings Per Share Multiples (P/E)	13.2	15.4			
Price to Book Value Multiples (P/B)	1.2	1.3			
* Indicators Ended June 30, 2018 on an annual basis.					
** Calculated based on the average rate of the financial data at the end of December 2017 and 30 June 2018.					

Al-Shall Index

Company Name	26/07/2018	Thu 19/07/2018	Diff %	Close 2017	Diff %													
1 National Bank Of Kuwait	506.8	506.8	0.0	429.7	17.9		18 Kuwait Real Estate Company	82.6	83.5	(1.1)	92.1	(10.3)						
2 Gulf Bank	205.6	207.2	(0.8)	193.4	6.3		19 United Realty Company	138.7	132.6	4.6	163.2	(15.0)						
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	555.2	516.0	7.6	375.3	47.9		20 National Real Estate Company	290.1	295.1	(1.7)	282.1	2.8						
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	204.3	219.3	(6.8)	189.9	7.6		21 Salhiah Real Estate Company	1356.7	1356.7	0.0	1429.4	(5.1)						
5 Kuwait International Bank	257.4	257.4	0.0	237.6	8.3		Real Estate Sector	189.4	189.6	(0.1)	198.3	(4.5)						
6 Ahli United Bank	309.5	301.5	2.7	331.9	(6.7)		22 The National Industries	143.8	146.5	(1.8)	134.0	7.3						
7 Burgan Bank	286.9	283.7	1.1	299.9	(4.3)		23 Refrigeration Industries Co	572.9	601.5	(4.8)	708.5	(19.1)						
8 Kuwait Finance Bank	1659.8	1668.6	(0.5)	1401.1	18.5		24 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	151.9	150.3	1.1	167.5	8.4						
Banking Sector	499.8	498.2	0.3	430.2	16.2		Industrial Sector	180.9	185.7	(2.6)	198.1	(8.7)						
Commercial Facilities Company	124.9	121.3	3.0	122.7	1.8		25 Kuwait National Cinemas	656.0	656.0	0.0	816.0	(19.6)						
10 International Financial Advisors	211.5	215.6	(1.9)	234.2	(9.7)		26 The Public Warehouse Co	3704.3	3677.5	0.7	3112.5	29.0						
11 National Investments Company	117.0	116.0	0.9	123.3	(5.1)		27 Mobile Telecom Co (ZAIN)	797.1	772.1	3.2	616.0	29.4						
12 Kuwait Projects Company (Holding)	559.2	563.9	(0.8)	746.5	(25.1)		28 Safat Energy Co	27.8	30.4	(8.6)	11.3	146.0						
13 Coast Investment & Dev Company	43.9	46.2	(5.0)	44.4	(1.1)		Services Sector	1182.1	1163.3	1.6	991.1	19.3						
Investment Sector	201.7	201.8	(0.0)	240.8	(16.2)		29 Livestock Transport & Trading Co	155.8	196.7	(20.8)	190.1	(18.3)						
14 Kuwait Insurance Company	65.5	65.5	0.0	60.6	8.1		30 Darjah Alsatat Foodstuff Company	47.4	48.1	(1.5)	70.1	(32.4)						
15 Gulf Insurance Company	367.2	367.8	(0.2)	469.9	(21.9)		Food Sector	456.8	466.8	(2.1)	421.4	8.4						
16 Al-Ahliya Insurance Company	180.3	180.3	0.0	174.6	(8.2)		31 Sharjah Cement Co	325.0	329.1	(1.2)	375.0	(13.3)						
17 Warba Insurance Company	52.1	57.3	(9.1)	52.8	(1.3)		32 Gulf Cement Co	298.8	304.4	(1.8)	322.6	(7.4)						
Insurance Sector	139.4	139.9	(0.4)	158.1	(11.8)		33 Umm Al-Qaiwain Cement Ind	522.4	448.8	16.4	588.6	(11.2)						
							Non Kuwaiti Companies	216.2	214.0	1.0	230.2	(6.1)						
							General Index	433.8	432.8	0.2	387.0	12.1						





made in China

The red, white and blue banners for US President Donald Trump's second-term campaign are ready to ship, emblazoned with the words "Keep America Great!"

But they are made in eastern China and soon could be hit by punitive tariffs of Trump's own making as he ratchets up a rancorous trade dispute with Beijing.

At the Jiahao Flag Co Ltd in Anhui province, women operate sewing machines to hem the edges of "Trump 2020" flags the size of beach towels, while others fold and bundle them for delivery. (RTRS)

Name: Kuwait Sharia

Compatible Indices

Providers: Al Madar Finance & Investment Co.

Description: Index of Sharia

compatible companies traded on the KSE

Website: www.almadar-fi.com

Index name	Bloomberg ticker	Today's value as of	Today's closing value	Prev closing value	% change	1-week change	3-month change	YTD change	12-month change	24-month change
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Composite	AMIC	July 26, 2018	174.80	174.16	0.37%	-0.17%	7.49%	4.40%	-2.67%	18.25%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Kuwait Only	AMIC	July 26, 2018	170.00	169.33	0.39%	-0.11%	7.77%	5.00%	-1.36%	18.43%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Active	AMIC	July 26, 2018	72.96	72.56	0.56%	-0.61%	4.29%	-1.87%	-18.12%	4.83%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Banking Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	319.68	318.14	0.48%	-0.25%	13.77%	14.94%	15.34%	37.35%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Investment Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	48.40	48.33	0.14%	-0.10%	13.28%	1.21%	-7.96%	-0.95%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Insurance Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	13.72	14.74	-6.90%	-8.48%	-36.80%	-30.96%	-30.96%	-14.03%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Real Estate Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	47.87	47.68	-0.01%	-0.69%	1.39%	0.93%	-0.59%	5.77%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Industrial Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	155.28	154.14	0.74%	-0.29%	1.02%	6.60%	8.48%	33.88%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Services Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	214.92	214.22	0.33%	0.40%	6.19%	-1.85%	-8.96%	24.45%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Food Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	126.94	126.60	0.27%	-16.72%	-6.80%	-25.93%	-58.70%	-65.30%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Islamic Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	148.69	148.21	0.32%	-0.34%	10.73%	10.57%	6.97%	34.11%
Kuwait Sharia Compatible Index - Non Kuwaiti Sector	AMIC	July 26, 2018	330.73	331.69	-0.29%	-1.67%	0.54%	-13.61%	-29.45%	16.36%
S&P 500	SPX	July 25, 2018	2,846.07	2,820.40	0.91%	1.08%	6.72%	5.90%	14.89%	30.85%
DJ Islamic Index.	DJIM	July 25, 2018	3,836.09	3,797.04	1.03%	1.52%	6.90%	5.48%	14.54%	30.11%

Xi urges fellow BRICS countries to reject unilateralism in trade

Chinese president says no winner in global trade war

JOHANNESBURG, July 26, (Agencies): Chinese President Xi Jinping said there would be no winner in a global trade war, urging fellow developing powers on Wednesday to reject unilateralism in the wake of tariff threats by US President Donald Trump.

Trump's warnings have given Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa fresh impetus to enhance trade cooperation, and their leaders found a collective voice championing global trade as they began a three-day BRICS summit in Johannesburg.

The meeting of presidents from the trade bloc is the first since Trump's administration launched a push to rebalance trade multilateralism that Trump has deemed unfair — relationships that the United States once championed. "We should be resolute in rejecting unilateralism," Xi said at the opening ceremony.

"A global trade war should be rejected because there will be no winner," said Xi, who oversees the world's second-largest economy, and whose nation is dominant in the BRICS bloc.

"Unilateralism and protectionism are mounting, dealing a severe blow to multilateralism," he said. "China will continue to develop itself with its door wide open."

Xi also said the collective rise of emerging markets and developing countries "is unstoppable and will make global development more balanced". He urged the BRICS governments to observe international rules, regardless of their size.

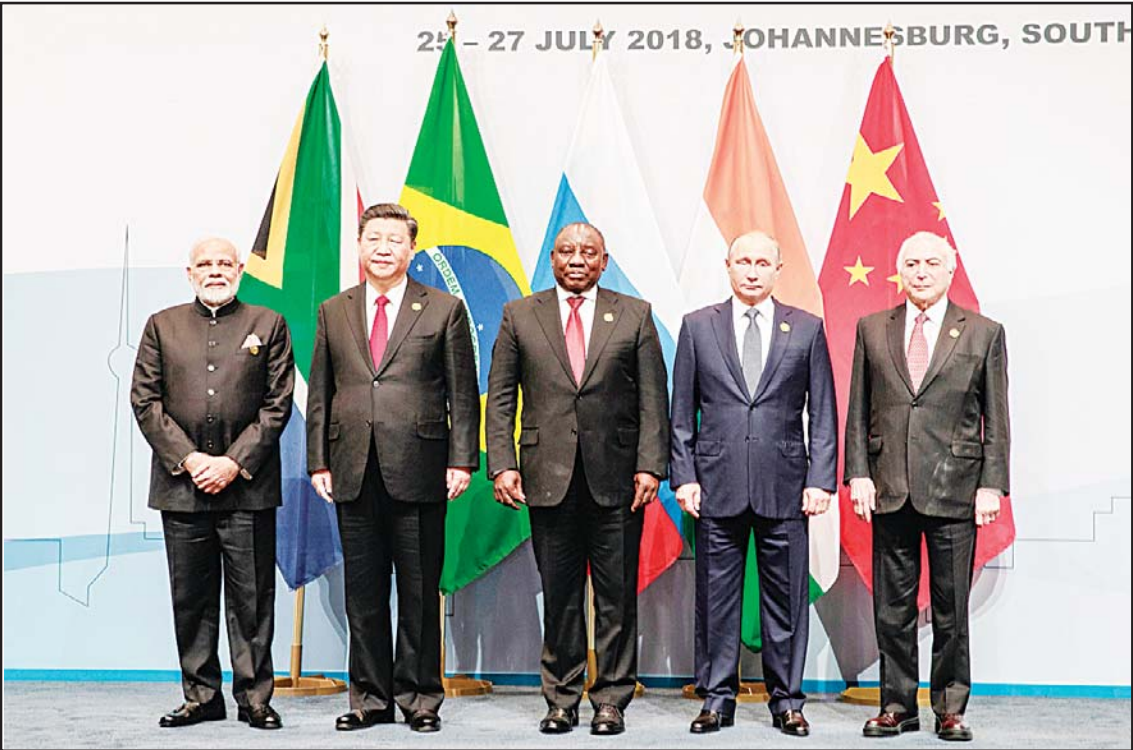
South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called for thorough discussions at the summit on the role of trade in promoting sustainable development and inclusive growth.

"We are meeting here at a time when the multilateral trading system is facing unprecedented challenges," he said in a speech.

"We are concerned by the rise in unilateral measures that are incompatible with World Trade Organization rules and are worried about the impact of these measures, especially on developing countries."

Last week, Trump said he was ready to impose tariffs on all \$500 billion of imported goods from China. But even South Africa — the continent's most industrialised economy but a tiny exporter of steel, aluminium and automobiles to the United States — is facing barriers.

South African Trade Minister Rob Davies said it was suffering collateral



(Left to right) India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Brazil's President Michel Temer pose for a group picture during the 10th BRICS (acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit on July 26, at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. (AFP)

China cenbank lifts yuan mid-point

SHANGHAI, July 26, (RTRS): China's central bank lifted its official yuan midpoint by the most in three weeks to 6.7662 per dollar on Thursday, reflecting spot yuan performance from a day earlier and broad weakness in the greenback overnight.

The official yuan midpoint was 378 pips, or 0.56 percent, firmer than the previous fix of 6.8040 on Wednesday.

The move in Thursday's official guidance rate was the biggest one-day strengthening in percentage terms since July 5.

Traders said Thursday's fixing matched forecast, but the yuan is likely to continue to face depreciation pressure in medium-term following its worst month on record in June when it fell about 3.3 percent to the US dollar.

The US dollar weakened against a

basket of major currencies after the United States and the European Union agreed to de-escalate a transatlantic trade conflict, leaders from the two trading partners announced in a joint statement in Washington.

Meanwhile, emerging stocks jumped to a one-month high on Thursday after an apparent easing of trade tensions between the United States and Europe, though Chinese markets fell on fears that US trade policy would be concentrated on the Asian powerhouse.

China's blue-chip index and its SSE composite index suffered their biggest daily fall in two weeks and were down 1.15 percent and 0.71 percent respectively, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index had dipped 0.61 percent.

As an agreement between President Donald Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker eased concerns of tensions between the two powers, the dispute between China and the US escalated further.

"There seems to be a US-EU agreement whereas Trump has focused very much on China," said senior EM economist at Capital Economics William Jackson. "Other emerging stocks are taking their cue from these more positive developments... but not China."

China's yuan weakened 0.3 percent against the dollar even after the country's central bank lifted its official yuan mid-point by the most in three weeks. Analysts said the yuan was likely to face depreciation pressure in the medium term.

"Unilateralism and protectionism are mounting, dealing a severe blow to multilateralism and the multilateral trading regime," he said, without mentioning the United States by name.

"We are facing a choice between cooperation and confrontation, between opening up and closed-door policy and between mutual benefit and a beggar-thy-neighbour approach.

"The international community has again reached a new crossroads."

What bubble?

China venture capital scene charge ahead

HONG KONG, July 26, (RTRS): China's venture capital scene has been on fire this year and a record-breaking run to unicorn status by a Chinese coffee startup suggests it is not cooling yet.

Luckin Coffee took just six months to reach a \$1 billion "unicorn" valuation, a performance that is helping boost investor appetite for Chinese startups, even as they estimate that valuations are far outstripping US ones.

This month at Hong Kong's RISE technology conference, a key stop on the Asian venture capital circuit, investors told Reuters that startups in China were 30 to 40 percent more expensive than their US counterparts and in some cases, were even valued at twice the price.

"If I put my US lenses on, this is insane," said Edith Yeung, partner at 500 Startups, a California-based venture capital firm. But, she said, the calculus for investors was the sheer size of the Chinese market, noting that the WeChat social media platform had three times more daily users than the population of the United States.

"Everything is sort of relative," Yeung said.

Optimism

Luckin Coffee typifies the optimism evident in China's start-up scene. The Beijing-based coffee delivery firm only began operating in January and has plans to expand its 660-strong network to challenge Starbucks, with 3,400 stores.

Detractors point out that Luckin's fast growth has relied heavily on cut-price promotions and warn it also faces heavy competition from other chains such as Canada's Tim Horton's.

Its backers still see value however. "Luckin's valuation is not cheap or lofty — it's reasonable," said David Li, head of Centurium Capital. The former head of Warburg Pincus Asia Pacific led Luckin's recent \$200 million financing round and maintains it is not a conventional start-up, pointing to a management of experienced, serial entrepreneurs.

At the other end of the scale from Luckin sits Ant Financial, the Chinese payments giant that became the world's largest unicorn in June when it secured \$14 billion in fresh funds that valued the firm at \$150 billion.

In search of the next Ant, Sequoia Capital China, the local arm of the Silicon Valley-based venture capital giant, is close to raising 15 billion yuan (\$2.3 billion) in its fifth yuan-denominated China-focused fund, the largest of its kind.

"Lots of China's rising sizable tech companies are promising and still fast-growing, and rely on fundraising for further growth. We are increasing our fund size to capture those opportunities," said Zhou Kui, a partner at Sequoia China.

The firm's recent investments include Bitmain Technologies, a Chinese bitcoin mining equipment maker, Pinduoduo Inc, a fast-growing e-commerce firm, and the self-driving start-up Pony.ai.

On average, a startup in China reaches unicorn status about 18 months quicker than its US equivalent, according to Pitchbook, an industry data provider.

"There is a lot of aggression and hunger," said Jixun Foo, managing partner at GGV Capital. "It's important to recognise the amount of talent and capital that's pouring into this market. That's capitalizing on a lot of change."

Campaign

Beijing's deleveraging campaign, which has driven up borrowing costs, slowed the economy and aggravated already tight market liquidity, could potentially affect fundraising for funds and companies, some investors warned.

For now, however, venture capitalists are confident they can exit via either an IPO or a sale.

Hong Kong is readying for a series of blockbuster tech deals, led by smartphone maker Xiaomi's \$5.4 billion float in July, the world's biggest tech IPO in four years.

Despite a relatively weak debut by Xiaomi, the earliest investors in the company still made 866 times their initial investments at the IPO price, said Hans Tung, San Francisco-based managing partner with GGV, which invested in Xiaomi from day one.

"The next two to three IPOs will determine whether people will come in big numbers," he said.

The trump card for those shrugging off bubble fears in China is the presence of other deep-pocketed buyers including Alibaba Group, Tencent Holdings and SoftBank Group, with its \$100 billion Vision Fund.

The three have shelled out some \$45 billion since 2015 across 71 investments in Chinese tech companies, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Chinese venture capital funds have so far performed better than their global peers, delivering a multiple of money — the total return on investment — of 1.72 times, compared to their US peers' 1.59 times, according to May data from eFront, which analyses around 4,000 funds.

investment funds

Funds	Fund Manager	Valuation	Valued date	Currency	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Prev NAV	Prev NAV Dated
<b>National Bank of Kuwait</b>							
Money Market Funds	Watani KD Money Market Fund II	NBK Capital	Weekly	July 17, 2018	KD	1.045	1.044
	Watani USD Money Market Fund	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	July 17, 2018	USD	10.371	10.367
	Watani KD Money Market Fund (Acc to Islamic Shariah principles) II	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	July 17, 2018	KD	1.044	1.044
	Watani USD Money Market Fund (Acc to Islamic Shariah principles) II	NBK Global Asset Management Co. Ltd.	Weekly	July 17, 2018	USD	10.205	10.202
Gulf Bank	NBK Kuwait Equity Fund	Watani Investment Co.	Weekly	July 12, 2018	KD	0.723	0.703
	Gulf Equity Investment Fund	Watani Investment Co.	Weekly	July 12, 2018	USD	13.041	12.762
	Regional Bond and Sukuk Investment Fund	NBK Capital	Weekly	July 12, 2018	USD	9.833	9.779
Gulf Bank	Al Basha'er GCC Equity Fund	Kwt. Fin. & Inv. Co. & Gulf Fin. House	Monthly	June 30, 2018	USD	7.259	7.199
	Coast Fund	Coast Investment & Dev. Co.	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.676	0.655
	Markaz Real Estate Fund		Bi-annual	June 30, 2018	KD	1.364	1.372
<b>Al Ahli Bank</b>							
Al Ahli Bank	Al Ahli Gulf Fund	Al Ahli Bank	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.021	1.000
	Al Ahli Kuwaiti Fund	Al Ahli Bank	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.803	0.779
<b>Burgan Bank</b>							
Burgan Bank	Burgan Equity Fund	Burgan Bank	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.866	1.859
<b>Boubyan Bank</b>							
Boubyan Bank	Boubyan KD Money Market Fund	Boubyan Bank	Weekly	April 17, 2018	KD	1.074	1.074
<b>Boubyan Capital Investment Co.</b>							
Boubyan Capital Investment Co.	Boubyan KD Money Market Fund II	Boubyan Bank	Weekly	July 10, 2018	USD	1.028	1.027
	Boubyan USD Liquidity Fund	Boubyan Capital Investment Co	Monthly	July 10, 2018	USD	10.359	10.351
	Boubyan Multi-Asset Holding Fund	Boubyan Bank	Monthly	Jan 30, 2018	USD	10.975	10.980
<b>Kuwait Investment Co.</b>							
Local Fund	Al Raed Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	July 19, 2018	KD	1.086	1.064
	Kuwait Investment Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	June 28, 2018	KD	0.771	0.750
	Al Hilal Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Monthly	July 16, 2018	KD	0.730	0.730
	Al Atheer Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.032	1.013
International	Global Bond Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	March 21, 2018	USD	26.270	26.350
	Diversified Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	May 31, 2018	USD	20.680	20.640
	European Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	May 31, 2018	Euro	21.520	21.080
	Pacific Equity Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Weekly	March 21, 2018	USD	33.440	33.210
	North American Equity Fund	Kuwait Investment Co	Tw. Monthly	March 29, 2018	USD	19.300	19.540
<b>National Investment Co. (NIC)</b>							
National Investment Co. (NIC)	Al-Wataniya Fund	NIC	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.592	0.622
	Al-Darji Fund	NIC	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.367	0.355
	Mawardi Fund	NIC	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.511	0.509
	Zajil Fund	NIC	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.772	0.755
Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz)	Al Mada Investment Fund	NIC	Weekly	June 30, 2018	USD	0.830	0.827
	Murtaz Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	4.303	4.182
Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz)	MIDAF	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	3.295	3.207
	Islamic Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.608	1.554
	FORSA Financial Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.026	0.996
	Real Estate Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.365	1.374
	Markaz Fixed Income Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Monthly	May 31, 2018	USD	11.620	11.590
	Mawazeen International Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	March 26, 2018	USD	9.050	9.140
	Markaz MENA Islamic Fund	Kuwait Financial Center	Weekly	April 12, 2018	USD	11.280	11.280
							March 15, 2018

Funds	Fund Manager	Valuation	Valued date	Currency	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Prev NAV	Prev NAV Dated
Kuwait & Middle East Financial & Inv. Co.							
Al Rou'yah Fund	KMEFIC	Monthly	May 31, 2018	KD	1.239	1.359	Nov 30, 2017
Global Investment House							
Index Funds	GCC Large Cap Index Fund	Global	Weekly	July 12, 2018	KD	1.406	1.271
	Al-Mamoun Fund A	Global	Weekly	July 12, 2018	KD	0.743	0.688
	Al-Mamoun Fund B	Global	Weekly	July 12, 2018	KD	0.743	0.688
	GCC Large Cap Fund	Global	Bi-weekly	July 10, 2018	USD	167.350	163.421
Sectoral Funds	Global Saudi Equity Fund	Global	Bi-weekly	July 10, 2018	SAR	265.350	261.769
	EPADI Fund	Global	Weekly	July 10, 2018	USD	115.110	111.027
Islamic Funds	Global GCC Islamic Fund	Global	Weekly	July 10, 2018	USD	109.030	106.094
	Al-Durra Islamic Fund	Global	Monthly	July 12, 2018	KD	1.403	1.289
Kuwait Finance & Investment Co (KFIC)							
Al Wasm Fund	KFIC	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.434	0.436	June 26, 2018
Al Basha'er GCC Equity Fund	KFIC	Monthly	June 30, 2018	USD	7.259	7.199	May 31, 2018
KAMCO							
KAMCO Investment Fund	KAMCO	Monthly	April 30, 2018	KD	1.144	1.143	Feb 28, 2018
KAMCO Real Estate Yield Fund	KAMCO	Monthly	June 30, 2018	USD	10.080	10.080	May 31, 2018
Wafra International Investment Co.							
Wafra Equity Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.943	0.911	May 31, 2018
Wafra Bond Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.024	1.020	May 31, 2018
Masaref Investment Fund	ISKAN	Weekly	June 30, 2018	KD	1.040	1.018	May 31, 2018
Fajir Islamic Fund	Wafra Co.	Monthly	June 30, 2018	KD	0.722	0.695	May 31, 2018
Al Aman Investment							
Al Aman Islamic Fund	Al Aman Investment	Weekly	May 31, 2018	KD	0.329	0.326	Dec 30, 2017
Tharwa Investment Co.							
Tharwa Investment Fund	Tharwa Investment Co	Weekly	July 12, 2018	KD	1.194	1.131	May 31, 2018
Tharwa Islamic Fund	Tharwa Investment Co	Monthly	July 12, 2018	KD	0.690	0.656	May 31, 2018
Bank Al-Bilad							
Al Seef Fund	Bank Al-Bilad	Daily	July 19, 2018	KD	0.467	0.430	June 6, 2018
Commercial International Bank							
CIB Money Market Fund (Osoul)	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 26, 2018	EGP	339.960	339.020	July 19, 2018
CIB II Equity (Isfethimar)	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 26, 2018	EGP	211.860	215.800	July 19, 2018
CIB and Faisal Islamic Al Aman	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 26, 2018	EGP	110.900	112.960	July 19, 2018
Hemaya	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 2, 2018	EGP	214.250	211.260	June 3, 2018
Thabat	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 26, 2018	EGP	217.400	216.810	July 19, 2018
Takamol	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 26, 2018	EGP	165.550	167.810	July 19, 2018
Misir El Mostakbel	Ci Asset Management	Weekly	July 22, 2018	EGP	27.390	27.760	July 18, 2018
KFH Capital							
Muthanna Islamic Index Fund (MUDX)	KFH Capital Investment Co	Daily	April 30, 2018	KD	0.371	0.374	Feb 24, 2018
Muthanna GCC Islamic banks Fund	KFH Capital Investment Co	Daily	April 30, 2018	KD	0.726	0.693	Feb 24, 2018
Bataik GCC Fund	KFH Capital Investment Co	Weekly	June 29, 2017	KD	0.930	0.916	Feb 28, 2017
Noor Financial Investment Co.							
Noor Islamic Fund	Noor Financial Investment Co	Monthly	Nov 30, 2016	KD	0.374	0.405	Sept 30, 2015
CapCorp Investment Co.							
CapCorp Local Fund	CapCorp Investment Company	Weekly	Sept 26, 2017	KD	1.000	0.994	Aug 30, 2017



## BUSINESS

### Egypt to float shares in state firms

Egypt aims to raise 8-10 billion Egyptian pounds (\$450 million to \$560 million) from floating shares in state-owned companies in fiscal year 2018-2019, deputy finance minister Ahmed Kouchouk said on Thursday.

The government is launching an IPO programme that will offer minority stakes in dozens of state-owned companies over the next three to five years in areas such as petroleum, services, chemicals,

shipping, maritime and real estate to help boost state finances.

Egypt last week announced the names of the first five state companies that will offer shares this year.

The companies are Alexandria Mineral Oils Company, Eastern Tobacco, Alexandria Container and Cargo Handling, Abou Kir Fertilizers, and Heliopolis Housing, a cabinet statement said.

The state owns swathes of

Egypt's economy, including three of its largest banks, much of its oil industry as well as its real estate sector.

Egypt in 2016 kicked off an ambitious three-year \$12 billion IMF loan programme tied to tough economic reforms that have included deep subsidy cuts and tax hikes.

The IMF has urged Cairo to reduce the role of its public sector in order to make room in the economy for private sector growth. (RTRS)

# Kuwait bourse winds up week with uptick

Zain rallies 8 fils; NBK flat

By John Mathews

Arab Times Staff

**KUWAIT CITY, July 26: Kuwait stocks eked modest gains on Thursday to wind up the week on a positive note. The All Shares Index climbed 7.76 pts in choppy trade to 5,226.03 points helped by some of the heavyweights even as the broader sentiment remained soggy.**

The Prime Market rose 7.76 points to 5,226.03 pts while Main Market shed 20.68 pts taking the month's gains to 86 pts. The volume turnover meanwhile fell slightly following Wednesday's uptick. 87 million shares changed hands – down 3 pct from the day before.

The sectors closed mostly in green. Technology outshone the rest 6.6 pct surge whereas insurance shed 0.46 percent, the biggest loser of the day. Volume wise, banks notched the highest market share of 38 pct while financial services trailed with 20.3 percent contribution.

Among the standout performers, Kuwait Finance House rose 3 fils to 611 fils on back of over 3 million shares and Mabane Co too was up by same measure to close at 671 fils. Humansoft Holding extended last session's solid gains with a 22 fils jump to KD 3.580.

Zain rallied 8 fils with a volume of 4.7 million whereas Ooredoo tumbled 40 fils to 799 fils. Kuwait Telecommunications Co (VIVA) ticked 1 fil down to 732 fil and Agility was not traded during the session.

The market opened on tame note and moved sideways in early trade. The main index slipped to plumb the day's lowest level of 5,215 pts and headed north half way into the session amid spurt in buying in select counters. It peaked at 5,229 points in the final minutes before trimming some of the gains at close.

#### Soared

Top gainer of the day, Sanam Real Estate soared 24 pct to 32 fils and QIC jumped 15.6 percent to stand next. First Takaful Insurance slumped 9.9 pct, the steepest decliner of the day and Kuwait International Bank topped the volume with 13.5 million shares.

The market was almost evenly spread. 47 stocks advanced whereas 46 closed lower. Of the 126 counters active on Thursday, 33 closed flat, 4,345 deals worth KD 22 million were transacted – a 7.9 pct drop in value from the day before.

National Industries Group eased 1 fil to 161 fils after trading 1.5 million shares and Mezzan Holding stood pat at 729 fils. Heavy Engineering Industries and Shipbuilding Co jumped 20 fils to 420 fils on back of 1.5f million shares.

Jazeera Airways was flat at 755 fils and ALAFCO gave up 3 fils to close at 364 fils. Boubyan Petrochemical Co paused at 518 fils and Al Qurain Petrochemical Co tripped 1 fil to 327 fils. OSOS climbed 6.2 fils to 92.5 fils.

Kuwait Cement Co and Independent Petroleum Group were flat at 380 fils and 449 fils respectively while Kuwait Foundry Co was down 3 fils at 196 fils. Equipment Holding Co ticked 0.1 fil lower to 30 fils and Mashaer Holding added 0.5 fil.

NAPESCO climbed 9 fils to 769 fils and Gulf Cable clipped 1 fil. KCPC jumped 14 fils to 214 fils and KPCC held ground at 62 fils. UPAC was unchanged at 619 fils after posting strong gains in the previous session.

Kuwait and Gulf Links Transport

### Mideast Stocks

#### Rest of Gulf mixed

DUBAI, July 26, (RTRS): Saudi Arabia's stock market fell slightly on Thursday after Riyadh reported an attack on two oil tankers by Yemen's Houthi movement, while other Gulf bourses moved little, suggesting investors don't expect the event to have much economic impact.

Riyadh said it would temporarily stop shipping oil through a Red Sea strait following the attack. But oil prices rose only modestly, with Brent crude adding 0.9 percent to \$74.59 a barrel after gaining 0.7 percent on Wednesday, when the attack reportedly occurred.

"Saudi's oil shipments that did go via the strait can easily be rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope at little additional cost and minimal delay," London-based Capital Economics said.

It said stock markets in the Gulf were focusing instead on signs of economic recovery in the region and improvement in the global market backdrop.

Credit default swaps, used to insure against the risk of a Saudi sovereign debt default and an indicator of geopolitical tensions in the Gulf, barely moved on Thursday.

The Saudi stock index closed down 0.4 percent as banking shares slipped, with Al Rajhi Bank and National Commercial Bank falling 0.5 percent and 1.2 percent respectively.

Southern Province Cement dropped 2.6 percent after reporting a 62 percent tumble in second-quarter net profit to 36 million riyals, far below analysts' average forecast of 82 million riyals (\$21.9 million).

But National Shipping Co (Bahri), which said one of its tankers was attacked, rose 2.6 percent.

Many fund managers view Saudi Arabia's stock market as richly valued, with SABIC at over 20 times trailing earnings. But major Saudi investment bank Jadwa said in a report on Wednesday that the market could rise further in coming months as active foreign funds began entering ahead of Riyadh's entry into MSCI's emerging market index next year.

Co rose 3 fils to 119 fils on back of 2.4 million shares and KGL Logistics edged 0.7 fil into green. IFA Hotels and Resorts and EK Holding paused at 100 fils and 336 fils respectively.

Combined Group Contracting Co gained 6 fils and Inoveest took in 0.7 fil to wind up at 81.7 fils. Automated Systems Co climbed 8 fils to 129 fils and Al Rai Media Group clipped 0.9 fil.

In the banking sector, National Bank of Kuwait and Gulf Bank were flat at 813 fils and 253 fils respectively whereas Kuwait International Bank rallied 4 fils to 247 fils. Warba Bank took in 1 fil and Burgan Bank was unchanged at 280 fils.

Commercial Bank and Al Mutahed rose 3 fils each to close 538 fils and 310 f fils respectively whereas Al Ahli Bank slid 23 fils. Ahli United Bank took in 2 fils to close at 218 fils. Boubyan Bnak stalled at 518 fils.

KIPCO and National Investment Co were flat at 239 fils and 93 fils respectively whereas Gulf Finance House trimmed 1 fil. Coast Investment Co dialed up 0.3 fil.

Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz) clipped 2 fils whereas International

Move to enable co to secure more deals

## Moelis & Co eyes Saudi advisory licence

DUBAI/LONDON, July 26, (RTRS): Moelis & Co is preparing to apply for an advisory licence in Saudi Arabia to enable it to secure more deals, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The New York-based boutique investment bank is expected to apply for a licence from the country's Capital Market Authority (CMA) to carry out advisory work enabling it to do more local equity capital markets and mergers and acquisitions work, two of the sources said.

Moelis declined to comment when contacted by Reuters. The CMA did not initially respond to a request for comment.

Moelis was chosen last year as an

adviser by Saudi Aramco on its plans for what could be the world's largest initial public share offering.

The IPO has since been delayed as Aramco works on a possible purchase of a "strategic stake" in local petrochemicals maker Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC).

But a flurry of other deals are expected in the country as a result of planned privatisations of state-owned assets and financing activity by private companies to help Saudi Arabia to diversify its economy away from a dependence on oil revenues.

Moelis has expanded from its United States base to locations across North and South America,

Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia. Its expansion in the Middle East has accelerated since opening an office in Dubai in 2010.

Saudi authorities require foreign financial services firms to obtain licences for certain activities within the country's capital markets such as advisory roles on IPOs and merger and acquisition deals.

Several other international banks are seeking to beef up their presence in Saudi Arabia. Citigroup is considering applying for a full banking licence, a senior executive at the bank said in May, while Goldman Sachs plans to expand its services in the kingdom after being cleared to trade equities there.

KAMCO Boursa Kuwait Daily Report														
Prepared by KAMCO Investment Research Department														
26-Jul-2018														
Index Returns & Market Capitalization	Value	Daily Point Change	Percentage Change			Trading Indicators	Value	Daily Point Change	Daily Percent Change	YTD Daily Average				
			DTD	MTD	YTD						Volume (000 shares)	Value (000 KWD)	Trades	
Premier Market Index	5,378.6	23.34	0.44%	9.66%	12.21%	Volume (000 shares)	87,797	-2,773	-3.06%	81,081				
Main Market Index	4,949.1	-20.68	-0.42%	1.76%	2.51%	Value (000 KWD)	22,180	-1,923	-7.98%	14,085				
All Share Market Index	5,226.0	7.76	0.15%	6.86%	8.19%	Trades	4,347	-277	-5.99%	3,417				
Market Cap (KWD Million)	29,532.5	44.84	0.15%	7.50%	6.54%									
	Close KWD	Vol Traded (000's)	Trades	Traded KWD 000	Change in Price	Beta	Dividend Yield	P/E	P/BV	52 Week Price (KWD)	YTD Daily Avg. Volume (000 shares)			
					Daily (filas)	YTD' (%)				High	Low			
SENERGY	0.029	467	33	13.2	-0.90	-18.3%	1.55	0.00%	79.6	0.39	0.045	0.024	122.3	
IPG	0.449	20	8	8.8	0.00	12.5%	0.32	6.35%	11.0	0.71	0.450	0.345	15.1	
NAPESCO	0.769	6	6	4.7	9.00	-2.9%	0.19	7.67%	12.5	1.54	0.560	0.844	16.5	
ENERGYH	0.029	21	3	0.6	0.00	0.3%	0.82	0.00%	NM	0.74	0.039	0.022	26.0	
GPI	0.026	521	26	13.7	-0.40	-10.3%	1.32	0.00%	NM	0.35	0.043	0.024	1,086.4	
ABAR	0.085	0	0	0.0	0.00	1.3%	NA	0.00%	7.6	0.31	0.099	0.049	24.6	
Oil & Gas	1,034	76	41.1		2.4%			4.94%	18.2	0.75			1,291	
KFOUC	0.196	6	1	1.2	-3.00	-21.3%	0.45	15.30%	5.9	0.67	0.313	0.193	52.8	
BPPC	0.938	272	36	252.1	18.00	40.0%	0.76	4.64%	48.2	1.70	0.940	0.568	382.3	
ALKOUT	0.680	0	0	0.0	0.00	13.3%	0.03	7.35%	11.0	2.10	0.680	0.580	0.4	
ALQURAIN	0.327	222	23	72.8	-1.00	-0.6%	0.73	4.06%	10.3	1.01	0.364	0.300	455.5	
Basic Materials	499	60	326.0		17.2%			4.95%	16.9	1.32			891	
SPEC	0.075	238	23	17.7	0.80	3.5%	0.33	0.00%	NM	0.43	0.105	0.050	181.0	
KCEM	0.380	27	2	10.3	0.00	-19.1%	0.50	5.12%	16.2	1.41	0.495	0.380	32.2	
CABLE	0.380	23	4	8.4	-1.00	-3.3%	1.07	6.58%	9.7	0.57	0.560	0.352	59.2	
SHIP	0.420	1,566	208	646.0	20.00	102.9%	0.52	4.78%	12.5	1.51	0.434	0.173	397.1	
PCEM	1.099	0	0	0.0	0.00	18.8%	0.55	8.19%	12.0	1.61	1.249	0.880	28.1	
PAPER	0.249	0	0	0.0	0.00	3.3%	0.19	6.76%	13.2	1.32	0.310	0.193	4.3	
MRC	0.050	1	1	0.1	0.00	-33.3%	0.45	0.00%	73.3	0.28	0.115	0.020	0.9	
ACICO	0.230	15	1	3.5	-9.00	-8.2%	0.46	4.12%	14.2	0.69	0.280	0.210	12.3	
HCC	0.120	0	0	0.0	0.00	-23.1%	0.03	0.00%	NM	0.87	0.190	0.056	1.5	
NICBM	0.175	0	0	0.0	0.00	-15.5%	0.16	4.57%	18.9	0.72	0.213	0.144	11.6	
EQUIPMENT	0.030	322	24	9.7	-0.10	-10.2%	1.42	0.00%	NM	0.44	0.052	0.026	285.6	
NCCI	0.052	0	0	0.0	0.00	-42.2%	NA	0.00%	NM	0.57	0.100	0.035	1.7	
SALBOOKH	0.045	0	0	0.0	0.00	-15.1%	0.78	0.00%	NM	0.47	0.066	0.037	52.8	
AGLTY	0.830	0	0	0.0	0.00	19.0%	1.48	1.50%	18.6	1.31	0.984	0.703	748.0	
EDU	0.320	0	0	0.0	0.00	3.6%	0.20	4.67%	13.9	1.86	0.377	0.250	11.6	
CLEANING	0.054	780	9	42.3	0.00	0.9%	1.05	0.00%	10.3	0.35	0.079	0.044	232.3	
KGL	0.119	2,401	78	285.5	3.00	82.0%	1.02	0.00%	8.5	0.47	0.142	0.052	1,207.6	
KPCP	0.214	1,657	233	348.7	14.00	51.8%	0.32	4.60%	9.2	0.95	0.221	0.134	41.8	
HUMANSOFT	3.580	346	99	1,227.8	22.00	-4.3%	0.39	4.45%	15.6	7.70	4.350	3.250	118.1	
GFC	0.020	0	0	0.0	0.00	-71.8%	NA	0.00%	NM	0.67	0.065	0.020	4.5	
CGC	0.412	21	7	8.5	6.00	-4.4%	NA	4.40%	13.8	1.49	0.568	0.375	14.4	
MTCC	0.056	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	0.95	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0	
UPAC	0.619	1	1	0.3	0.00	5.8%	0.23	15.35%	6.4	1.59	0.800	0.375	5.3	
ALAFCO	0.364	198	11	72.2	-3.00	-2.9%	0.42	2.75%	10.6	1.21	0.410	0.340	175.7	
MUBARRAD	0.060	281	5	16.6	0.00	-6.3%	0.91	8.33%	5.3	0.50	0.077	0.055	115.0	
LOGISTICS	0.045	2,648	86	117.2	0.70	-2.6%	0.87	0.00%	5.0	0.31	0.070	0.041	2,976.2	
INTEGRATED	0.944	4,522	414	4,257.0	15.00	10.4%	NA	0.00%	15.6	3.51	0.949	0.837	376.3	
SCEM	0.078	149	1	11.6	2.00	-13.3%	0.47	10.26%	8.1	0.35	0.094	0.073	59.5	
GCME	0.074	35	1	2.6	0.00	-7.4%	0.57	10.80%	18.2	0.65	0.090	0.074	121.1	
QCEM	0.071	86	3	6.0	9.60	-11.3%	0.23	8.86%	18.1	0.41	0.099	0.060	14.4	
PCFM	0.062	0	0	0.0	0.00	-17.3%	0.55	8.00%	7.3	0.26	0.083	0.062	16.4	
RKWC	0.073	3	1	0.2	0.00	-11.0%	0.12	6.85%	14.6	0.58	0.100	0.065	47.1	
Industrials	15,320	1,212	7,092.2		7.6%			3.49%	15.2	1.20			7,930	
PAPCO	0.037	0	0	0.0	0.00	-56.0%	0.23	26.98%	NM	0.24	0.094	0.025	0.3	
CATL	0.187	0	0	0.0	0.00	-18.3%	0.42	2.58%	15.6	0.93	0.338	0.185	2.4	
DANAH	0.046	1	1	0.0	0.50	-32.4%	0.53	0.00%	NM	0.25	0.126	0.038	332.7	
MEZZAN	0.729	60	3	43.7	0.00	-5.9%	0.70	3.02%	17.5	2.06	0.915	0.686	871.7	
Consumer Goods	61	4	43.8		-63.7%		NA	3.05%	30.4	1.66			530	
ITC	1.100	0	0	0.0	0.00	0.0%	NA	1.82%	29.2	3.03	N/A	N/A	0.0	
YIACO	0.134	0	0	0.0	0.00	-23.4%	0.66	0.00%	NM	2.82	0.192	0.114	6.6	
MIDAN	1.220	200	1	244.0	0.00	0.0%	NA	0.00%	54.7	9.95	1.220	1.220	10.7	
Health Care	200	1	244.0		-1.5%			0.61%	NM	5.28			17	
KCIN	1.045	0	0	0.0	0.00	-19.6%	0.15	4.91%	10.4	1.44	1.500	0.950	10.7	
KHOT	0.100	0	0	0.0	0.00	-59.2%	NA	4.87%	NM	1.01	0.246	0.050	0.8	
SULTAN	0.065	138	14	8.9	2.00	-3.0%	0.70	0.00%	NM	7.23	0.091	0.026	432.5	
CABLETV	0.008	0	0	0.0	0.00	-57.9%	0.40	0.00%	NM	0.22	0.035	0.006	0.4	
IFAHF	0.100	6	0	0.0	0.00	-44.4%	0.14	0.00%	NM	1.01	0.299	0.090	5.5	
OLUFAUEL	0.125	141	42	17.6	1.00	12.6%	0.45	3.94%	14.1	0.83	0.138	0.100	111.9	
MINUTAZAHAT	0.055	3,137	120	173.1	-1.10	-21.4%	0.79	8.49%	5.7	0.39	0.083	0.054	219.9	
ALZEFERA	0.756	103	6	77.2	0.00	0.0%	0.28	4.45%	18.9	3.45	0.780	0.460	164.5	
SCOTIA	0.125	153	24	19.2	1.00	12.6%	0.41	3.96%	14.6	0.76	0.193	0.101	94.6	
FUTUREKID	0.102	10	1	1.0	0.00	2.0%	NA	11.10%	10.1	0.57	0.125	0.096	6.9	
ALRAI	0.096	94	6	9.1	-0.90	-19.9%	0.56	24.81%	12.1	0.55	0.144	0.092	99.2	
JIYAD	0.091	18	17	1.6	-2.20	-4.6%	0.73	0.00%	38.0	0.87	0.130	0.041	1,756.5	
ALEID	0.057	0	0	0.0	0.00	-28.8%	0.04	0.00%	4.2	0.38	0.090	0.054	0.6	
Consumer Services	3,800	238	308.3		-10.8%			4.43%	24.4	1.20			2,954	
ZAIN	0.492	4,767	304	2,330.8	8.00	13.4%	1.66	6.41%	13.3	1.47	0.570	0.367	2,771.3	
QOOREDOO	0.799	291	75	232.6	-14.00	-26.0%	0.52	8.71%	10.2	0.66	1.300	0.771	15.0	
AAN	0.020	94	8	1.8	0.30	-31.4%	1.70	0.00%	NM	0.31	0.045	0.019	852.0	
NIVA	0.732	28	43	20.6	-1.00	-8.4%	0.78	4.10%	9.1	2.18	0.950	0.671	36.2	
Telecommunications	5,180	480	2,646.7		2.6%			12.5%	16.7	1.27			6,425	
CEC	0.183	978	89	79.4	0.00	17.3%	1.34	3.48%	15.7	1.67	0.820	0.690	2,680.4	
GBK	0.253	3,140	94	794.9	0.00	6.3%	0.91	3.40%	16.1	1.28	0.275	0.233	2,221.3	
CBB	0.038	14	3	7.7	3.00	48.0%	0.67	2.53%	17.6	1.56	0.539	0.330	51.7	
ABK	0.312	129	9	40.8	-23.00	7.6%	0.60	3.82%	14.2	0.88	0.368	0.287	144.9	
ALMUTAHED	0.310	804	71	249.1	3.00	-11.2%	0.74	3.55%	13.0	1.43	0.431	0.249	373.9	
KIB	0.247	13,510	302	3,308.3	4.00	8.3%	0.98	3.64%	14.5	0.98	0.264	0.199	1,695.2	
BURG	0.280	1,089	69	305.0	0.00	-4.2%	0.94	2.35%	9.7	0.94	0.377	0.241	614.3	
KFIN	0.611	3,110	246	1,894.1	3.00	16.7%	1.61	2.49%	21.0	2.07	0.650	0.467	3,876.3	
BOUBYAN	0.518	501	88	259.9	0.00	24.7%	0.90	1.29%	26.0	3.30	0.524	0.400	772.3	
WABARBANK	0.237	515	96	121.0	1.00	3.0%	0.86	0.00%	35.0	2.39	0.270	0.195	1,055.1	
AUB	0.218	8,755	193	1,902.0	2.00	11.1%	0.75	5.63%	9.2	1.49	0.226	0.168	3,406.5	
NAR	0.032	827	34	26.4	-0.20	-24.6%	1.62	0.00%	NM	0.09	0.058	0.028	5,507.7	
Banks	33,371	1,294	9,704.3		14.4%			13.3%	16.1	1.63			22,596	
KINS	0.297	0	0	0.0	0.00	8.0%	0.07	8.02%	7.1	0.82	0.300	0.230	12.4	
GINS	0.644	0	0	0.0	0.00	-21.8%	0.06	4.46%	11.7	1.42	0.950	0.512	5.1	
AINS	0.427	44	12	18.9	1.00	-8.2%	0.18	8.04%	9.9	0.79	0.540	0.344	64.0	
WINS	0.064	1	3	0.1	-6.40	-1.4%	0.59	0.00%	NM	0.27	0.098	0.050	26.8	
KUWAIT														



# BUSINESS

## Qualcomm to drop \$43 bn bid for NXP

US computer chip giant Qualcomm said it was set to drop a \$43 billion acquisition of Dutch rival NXP after failing to win approval of antitrust authorities in China.

Qualcomm's chief executive Steve Mollenkopf said the California firm would end its effort when the bid expires at 11:59 pm Eastern time (0359 GMT) barring any "new material developments."

The move comes amid increasing trade tensions between the United States and China.

Qualcomm had extended the deadline several times for the tie-up which would have given the dominant smartphone chip-maker firm a broader array of products including sensors and microprocessors for connected "internet of things" devices.

It also raised its bid -- from \$110 to \$127 a share -- in Feb-

quary, to the irritation of fellow chipmaker Broadcom, which itself recently had a hostile bid for Qualcomm blocked by the White House. Washington said the acquisition of Qualcomm by Broadcom — now Singapore-based — would help Chinese competitors such as Huawei, particularly in the emerging 5G blazing fast wireless internet, where a stronger China could present a national security issue. (AFP)

Jennifer Mullin will take one of the biggest jobs in international TV, as CEO of production and distribution giant FremantleMedia. Mullin has been CEO of FremantleMedia North America, the company's largest unit, since May 2017.

She joined the North America operation in 2005 as senior vice president of current programming, rising to executive vice president of current programming in 2012 and co-CEO in 2015, alongside

Craig Cegielski.

Mullin will replace Cecile Frot-Coutaz in London at the helm of FremantleMedia, which is owned by Luxembourg-based RTL, on Sept. 1. Frot-Coutaz is leaving after more than two decades to head YouTube's EMEA business, as first reported by Variety in March. Frot-Coutaz has been CEO of FremantleMedia since 2012.

"A strong and hugely respected"

leader, Jennifer has been a key force in FremantleMedia's creative renewal across unscripted and scripted programming and has a matchless understanding of the global content industry," said RTL Group CEO Bert Habetha. "I warmly welcome Jennifer in her new role and wish her every success, and I am very much looking forward to working with her to further drive the growth of our global content business." (RTRS)

## FremantleMedia names Jennifer Mullin new CEO

the **bottom**line

**LONDON:** Royal Dutch Shell said Thursday that second-quarter net profits quadrupled, energised by high oil prices and asset sales, adding that it has launched a vast \$25-billion shares buyback.

Earnings after taxation surged to \$6.0 billion in the three months to June compared with \$1.5 billion a year earlier, Shell said in a results statement.

The company offloaded \$2.5-billion of assets in the reporting period, with disposals in Canada, India, Malaysia, Norway and Thailand.

The London-listed energy major will now seek to buy back at least \$25 billion of shares from investors over 2018-2020, subject to debt reduction and the oil price environment.

“This quarter our cash flow from operations excluding working capital movements is the strongest since the first quarter of 2014, when (the) oil price was above \$100 a barrel,” said chief executive Ben van Beurden in video comments accompanying the release. (AFP)

☐ ☐ ☐

**NEW YORK:** General Motors cut its full-year profit forecast on Wednesday, in part due to higher commodity costs as it amplified its warning that trade conflicts could dent US and global car sales.

GM trimmed its earnings forecast from its prior range of \$5.52 to \$5.82 per diluted share to approximately \$5.14 per share.

The company cited a “significant” increase in commodity costs, as well as the sinking valuation of the Argentine peso and Brazilian real that have marred its sales outlook in those markets. These two effects will add \$1 billion to GM costs in 2018, the company said. “It appears that the trade war President Donald Trump has brought on the auto industry — and General Motors specifically — has impacted earnings,” said a note from Briefing.com. (AFP)



**PARIS:** European air giant **Airbus** said Thursday its half-year profits plunged, as the company is hit by delays in the delivery of its A320neo engines, but confirmed its objective to provide 800 aircraft this year despite "risks".

Net income for the period more than halved to 496 million euros (\$582 million) from 1.09 billion last year including "a negative impact from the foreign exchange revaluation of financial instruments." "The first half financials reflect the back-loaded deliveries due to A320neo engine shortages, while on the positive side there was a strong improvement on the A350 programme," CEO Tom Enders said in a company statement.

"A320neo aircraft deliveries picked up during the second quarter but challenges remain to meet our full year targets." (AFP)

☐ ☐ ☐

**NEW YORK:** The strong air-travel business continues to give a lift to **Boeing**, which reported Wednesday that second-quarter profit rose 26 percent to \$2.2 billion.

Boeing Co raised its forecast for full-year revenue but the aircraft maker left its profit outlook unchanged, reflecting continuing hitches in its program to build a new refueling tanker for the US Air Force.

Shares fell \$2.35, or less than 1 percent, to close at \$355.92. They dropped 3.6 percent in morning trading before recovering most of the lost

## exchange rates – July 26

		US dollar			Sterling pound			Euro			Japanese yen			Swiss franc			Canadian dollar			Swedish krona			Saudi riyal			UAE dirham			Bahraini dinar			Omani riyal					
		Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer						
BEC	Buy	299650	300090	300900	392927	392426	392426	347982	348702	348702	0.02652	0.02651	0.02651	299113	300113	300113	226990	224990	224990	0.030566	0.030526	0.030526	0.797980	0.802800	0.802800	0.081139	0.081093	0.081093	798169	796669	796669	781344	778252	778252			
	Sell	304450	303250	303250	406827	401928	401928	361682	349991	349991	0.02832	0.02831	0.02831	310113	307113	307113	235990	234990	234990	0.035566	0.035568	0.035568	0.810800	0.809020	0.809020	0.082839	0.082589	0.082589	805669	805169	805169	787024	787252	787252			
	Muzaini	Sell	300700	300700	300700	—	426390	426390	—	371670	371670	—	0.02806	0.02806	—	315860	315860	—	238080	238080	—	—	—	—	0.802400	0.802400	—	0.81946	0.81946	—	798990	798990	—	781445	781445		
Dollaro Commercial Bank	Buy	303750	303040	303040	402250	402205	402205	356500	354780	354780	0.02900	0.037450	0.037450	306000	303700	303700	232500	231095	231095	—	—	—	0.080500	0.81705	0.81705	0.082250	0.82910	0.82910	796500	805895	805895	782545	784311	784311			
	Sell	299600	301850	301850	397000	398427	398427	353000	354040	354040	—	0.02725	0.02725	303000	304376	304376	231000	231551	231551	—	0.034426	0.034426	0.780000	0.80515	0.80515	0.081932	0.82208	0.82208	798243	799433	799433	782410	787768	787768			
	Gulf Bank	Buy	30420	303950	303950	405000	401199	401199	352070	352070	352070	0.02710	0.02710	0.02710	302590	302590	302590	230180	231362	231362	0.034000	0.034000	0.034000	0.803650	0.80350	0.80350	0.081990	0.81900	0.81900	794640	794640	794640	782660	782660	782660		
NBK	Buy	303950	303950	303950	404310	404310	404310	359270	359270	359270	0.02750	0.02750	0.02750	303980	303980	303980	234910	234910	234910	0.034800	0.034800	0.034800	0.801460	0.801460	0.801460	0.083010	0.81300	0.81300	806580	806580	806580	793520	793520	793520			
	Buy	—	301850	301850	—	398290	398290	—	353950	353950	—	0.02721	0.02721	—	303990	303990	—	231250	231250	—	0.034300	0.034300	—	0.804200	0.804200	—	0.82120	0.82120	—	799500	799500	—	783520	783520			
	Sell	—	303950	303950	—	402730	402730	—	358080	358080	—	0.02753	0.02753	—	307800	307800	—	233840	233840	—	0.034790	0.034790	—	0.81180	0.81180	—	0.82890	0.82890	—	807520	807520	—	790710	790710			
Burgan Bank	Buy	—	301850	301850	—	397868	397868	—	353617	353617	—	0.02725	0.02725	—	304039	304039	—	231329	231329	—	0.034434	0.034434	—	0.803078	0.803078	—	0.82605	0.82605	—	788367	788367	—	773984	773984			
	Sell	—	303950	303950	—	400788	400788	—	356229	356229	—	0.02745	0.02745	—	306308	306308	—	233027	233027	—	0.034686	0.034686	—	0.81154	0.81154	—	0.82861	0.82861	—	815616	815616	—	799878	799878			
	ABK	Buy	299350	301850	301850	393550	397100	397100	349590	352740	352740	—	0.02714	0.02714	—	302840	302840	—	230740	230740	—	—	—	—	0.07979	0.07979	—	0.81720	0.81720	—	791650	791650	—	780160	780160		
KFH	Buy	305450	303950	303950	404680	402360	402360	359840	357780	357780	—	0.02750	0.02750	—	307950	307950	—	233900	233900	—	—	—	—	0.81320	0.81320	—	0.80390	0.80390	—	807430	807430	—	792940	792940			
	Buy	300140	30650	30650	38108	397525	38755	339498	34744	34744	—	0.02655	0.02655	—	236872	236872	—	227365	227365	—	0.034172	0.034172	0.801111	0.801111	0.801111	0.081797	0.81787	0.81787	795310	79510	79510	780862	780962	780862			
	Sell	305670	303950	303950	418340	409907	409907	373315	363615	363615	—	0.02807	0.02807	—	312384	312384	—	236961	236961	—	—	—	—	0.81155	0.81155	0.81155	0.082859	0.82859	0.82859	810144	810440	810440	789870	789870	789870		
KBE	Buy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
		Danish krone			Indian rupee			Pakistani rupee			Sri Lanka rupee			Bangladesh taka			Philippine peso			Australian dollar			Hong Kong dollar			Singapore dollar			Jordanian dinar			Egyptian pound					
		Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer	Cash	Drift	Transfer						
BEC	Buy	0.043475	0.043635	0.043635	0.003878	0.004349	0.004349	0.01756	0.004200	0.004200	0.01587	0.01857	0.01857	0.003054	0.003602	0.003602	0.005624	0.005221	0.005221	0.005924	0.005690	0.005690	2.217067	2.15067	2.15067	0.036557	0.036058	0.036058	2.17414	2.18414	2.18414	4.32411	4.21934	4.21934	0.014313	0.016245	0.016245
	Sell	0.044650	0.048635	0.048635	0.004653	0.004429	0.004429	0.002526	0.002435	0.002435	0.002167	0.01900	0.01900	0.003855	0.003625	0.003625	0.005924	0.005690	0.005690	—	—	—	2.229067	2.28067	2.28067	0.039307	0.039158	0.039158	2.27414	2.24414	2.24414	4.32411	4.29434	4.29434	0.020031	0.017053	0.017053
	Muzaini	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dollaro Commercial Bank	Buy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Gulf Bank	Buy	—	0.047440	0.047440	0.004000	0.004417	0.004417	0.002850	0.002492	0.002492	0.020000	0.01913	0.01913	0.003900	0.003625	0.003625	0.061000	0.061000	0.061000	2.240000	2.24561	2.24561	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
NBK	Buy	—	0.047775	0.047775	0.006500	0.004438	0.004438	—	0.002377	0.002377	0.035000	0.01907	0.01907	—	0.003625	0.003625	0.079000	0.051575	0.051575	—	—	—	2.210000	2.26124	2.26124	0.038735	0.038735	—	2.23476	2.23476	—	—	—	—	—		
	Sell	0.047400	0.047400	0.047400	—	0.000000	0.000000	0.002400	0.002400	0.002400	0.019300	0.019300	0.019300	0.003660	0.003660	0.003660	0.057770	0.057770	0.057770	2.24010	2.24010	2.24010	0.038260	0.038260	0.038260	2.215000	2.215000	—	2.221000	2.221000	—	4.23350	4.23350	—	0.016400	0.016400	
	Gulf Bank	Buy	0.048010	0.048010	0.048010	0.004480	0.004480	0.004480	0.002400	0.002400	0.002400	0.018810	0.018810	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Burgan Bank	Buy	—	0.047450	0.047450	—	0.004375	0.004375	—	0.004375	0.004375	0.019150	0.019150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Sell	—	0.047970	0.047970	—	0.004450	0.004450	—	0.002381	0.002381	0.018810	0.018810	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	ABK	Buy	—	0.047448	0.047448	—	0.004380	0.004380	—	0.002333	0.002333	0.018880	0.018880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
ABK	Buy	—	0.047801	0.047801	—	0.004436	0.004436	—	0.002362	0.002362	0.019080	0.019080	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
	Sell	—	0.045080	0.045080	—	0.004353	0.004353	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	KFH	Buy	—	0.047290	0.047290	—	0.004455	0.004455	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
KFH	Buy	—	0.046984	0.046984	—	0.004333	0.004333	—	0.002301	0.002301	0.018750	0.018750	—	0.003512	0.003512	—	2.17424	2.17424	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	Sell	—	0.048076	0.048076	—	0.004475	0.004475	—	0.002389	0.002389	0.019150	0.019150	—	0.003664	0.003664	—	2.31975	2.31975	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	KBE	Buy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
KBE	Sell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—																											



Poland’s Linette reaches Jiangxi Open quarters

Impressive Thiem races into Hamburg quarter-finals

HAMBURG, July 26, (Agencies): Top seed Dominic Thiem eased past Australian John Millman 6-2, 6-2 at the German Tennis Championships on Thursday to reach his 10th quarter-final of the season.

French Open finalist Thiem sprinted out of the blocks in glorious Hamburg sunshine, breaking Millman’s serve twice before serving out the opening set in 33 minutes.

The 24-year-old Austrian carried that momentum throughout the second set, converting a further two break points on his way to a comfortable victory.

Thiem extended his match win record to 38-11 for the season, which includes two claycourt titles in Buenos Aires and Lyon. He will next face Czech Nicolas Jarry for a place in the semifinals.

Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta was

leading 6-2, 4-0 when his opponent Al-jaz Bedene was forced to retire due to a hip injury.

Up next for the third seed is Georgia’s Nikoloz Basilashvili, who roared back from 1-6 down in the first set tie-break to beat 2013 finalist Pablo Cuevas 7-6 (6), 6-4.

In Nanchang, China, third-seeded Magda Linette of Poland reached her third quarter-final of the year at the Jiangxi Open when she beat Eri Hozumi of Japan 6-3, 7-5 on Thursday.

Linette, trying to win her first WTA title, will face Australian Open junior champion and qualifier Liang En-Shuo of Taiwan.

Sixth-seeded Zheng Saisai of China defeated qualifier Karman Thandi of India 6-4, 6-0. Zheng will face first-time career quarter-finalist Xun Fang Ying, who defeated Lu Jing-Jing 6-4, 7-5.

Also, Liu Fangzhou upset eighth-seeded Han Xinyun 6-3, 6-3 for her second career quarter-final, where she will play second-seeded Wang Qiang, another Chinese.

Six Chinese players feature in the quarter-finals, and three are guaranteed to make the semifinals.

In Atlanta, top-seeded John Isner won in his first match since a marathon loss at Wimbledon, beating Alex de Minaur of Australia 6-3, 6-2 on Wednesday night in the Atlanta Open.

The 33-year-old Isner, the defending champion at Atlantic Station seeking his fifth title in the event, was coming



Thiem

off a 6-hour, 36-minute semifinal loss to Kevin Anderson in the Wimbledon semifinals that ended with a 26-24 fifth set.

“I’m very mature now. I know what it takes to bounce back from something like that,” Isner said. “As soon as I got off the plane I worked out actually. I

TENNIS

have to keep my body constantly moving. Just sitting on a couch for days on end, I would have felt even worse.”

The 6-foot-10 former University of Georgia star won the Miami Open in April for his 13th ATP Tour title and first Masters 1000 event victory. He had an easy time with the 19-year-old de Minaur.

“It was a pretty comprehensive win,” Isner said. “You never know how you’re going to come out. This was my

first match on hard court since Miami so it’s been a little bit and hadn’t practiced too much because the focus was on resting after that long match.”

Isner set up a quarter-final match against seventh-seeded Mischa Zverev of Germany, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over Russia’s Mikhail Youzhny.

Eighth-seeded Ryan Harrison, the losing finalist last year, advanced with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Lukas Lacko of Slovakia.

Third-seeded Chung Hyeon of South Korea beat Taylor Fritz 6-4, 7-6 (5) to set up a quarter-final against Harrison.

Also:

**LOS ANGELES:** Former world number ones **Andy Murray** and **Victoria Azarenka** have been handed wildcards into next month’s ATP-WTA Western & Southern Open in **Cincinnati**, tournament organisers announced on Thurs-

day.

Murray and Azarenka, both former winners of the tournament, will line up in the 56-player fields for the tournament, which takes place from Aug 11-19 at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in **Ohio**.

Azarenka won the tournament in 2013, defeating **Serena Williams** in the final.

The two-time major winner has not played Cincinnati since giving birth to her son in 2016.

Murray, who lifted the Cincinnati crown in 2008 and 2011, last played the event in 2016.

The Scottish star has been plagued by a hip injury since last season, returning in June this year during the grass-court season.

Murray’s world ranking has plummeted to 839 after he pulled out of this year’s Wimbledon.

Hurricanes face playoff demons on trip to Crusaders

Lions seek redemption as semis loom



Sharks’ Tyler Paul is tackled by Crusaders’ Ryan Crotty during the Super Rugby quarter-final match between the New Zealand’s Canterbury Crusaders and South Africa’s Coastal Sharks at Rugby League Park in Christchurch on July 21. (AFP)

Knight in shining armour

Whyte can’t rival Joshua as he prepares for Parker bout

LONDON, July 26, (AFP): British heavyweight boxer Dillian Whyte has earned the nickname “The Body Snatcher” but he is fortunate not to have gone to an early grave himself after being shot and stabbed as a youngster.

The 30-year-old Jamaica-born fighter takes on former heavyweight champion Joseph Parker on Saturday in London with the winner in line for a potential shot at a world title.

The father of three — his first child was born when he was just 13 — says

wasn’t sending anything.

“I came here when I was 12 and was shot twice (he once pulled a bullet out of his knee), stabbed three times. That was my path. Thank God I found martial arts.”

Whyte, who lost two years of his career to a doping ban, admits he will never be seen as a knight in shining armour like current world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua.

Whyte and New Zealand’s Parker have both lost to Joshua in their professional careers, Parker as recently as March this year.

However, Whyte did beat Joshua in their amateur days before Joshua was crowned Olympic champion in 2012.

“I could go to church, save a million puppies, 100,000 dolphins, seven blue whales and adopt 200 kids tomorrow and Joshua will still be the golden goose,” Whyte told the BBC.

“There’s no point me fighting that battle with him. People will get to see I’m real and a straight guy. And they’ll realise I can fight as well.”

Whyte, who belies his tough guy image by spending a lot of time caring for his puppy Zeus, comes into the Parker bout on the back of seven successive victories following the sole loss of his 24-fight career to Joshua and promises more pain for the Kiwi.

“There’s going to be blood, pain and a knockout,” said Whyte.



Whyte

BOXING

nothing in the ring can rival the dangers he faced on the streets.

“Growing up, I got stabbed in a few places, had a few stitches, I got shot in the leg,” he told the Sun shortly before he beat the experienced Australian Lucas Browne in March.

“But I’ve always been a survivor, that’s what I’m good at doing.”

He talks in reverential terms about his mother Jane but her departure to England to look for work spelled trouble for him.

“Man, when I was growing up in Jamaica we suffered, suffered, suffered,” Whyte, a former European kickboxing champion, told the BBC.

“My mum left when I was two to come and find work in London to make money, as we had nothing. Some days we couldn’t eat, we’d go to bed hungry.

“She left me with people who didn’t take very good care of me. They were taking the money my mum was sending and was telling me she

Vaughan leads backlash over Rashid’s ‘ridiculous’ Test recall against India

LONDON, July 26, (AFP): England selection chief Ed Smith and his panel were under fire on Thursday following their controversial decision to recall leg-spinner Adil Rashid for next week’s first Test against India — a move Michael Vaughan slammed as “ridiculous”.

Rashid was included in a 13-man squad even though he has opted out of playing first-class County Championship cricket for Yorkshire this season.

Being available for Championship cricket has long been an essential requirement for England selection and many observers believe it’s wrong Rashid, for all his recent excellent one-day international form, should get a Test recall without playing red-ball cricket.

Former England captain Vaughan, who himself played for Yorkshire, was scathing in his assessment.

“So we have picked someone who cannot be arsed with 4 day cricket for the Test Team ... Forget whether he is good enough or not I find this decision ridiculous ... !!!!!” Vaughan told his Twitter followers.



Rashid

Normally the announcement that a Yorkshire player had been selected for an England side would be a cause for rejoicing among the White Rose faithful.

But former Yorkshire and England seamer Matthew Hoggard was also among those who tweeted their disapproval of Rashid’s recall for the first of a five-match series at Edgbaston.

“Another kick in the teeth for county cricket! Total devaluation in (of) the Championship,” he said.

Yorkshire chief executive Mark

CRICKET

Arthur made a similar point, telling the county’s website: “We’re very surprised that England have called Adil up after not playing red-ball cricket this season. “Neither has he expressed a desire to do so. I hope that England know what they’re doing to Adil, and the county game.”

Meanwhile even the 30-year-old Rashid, who has yet to play a Test in England after 10 appearances overseas, said he was taken aback by his recall after more than 18 months out of the format since playing against India in Chennai in December 2016.

“It was definitely a tough decision — and yes, obviously, I was kind of surprised,” Rashid told Sky Sports News.

WELLINGTON, July 26, (Agencies): The Golden Lions head into this week-end’s Super Rugby semifinal against NSW Waratahs desperate to erase painful memories of losing the 2016 and 2017 competition deciders.

Hooker Malcolm Marx insists that rather than leaving the Lions mentally scarred, the back-to-back defeats made them tougher and more determined to go all the way this year.

“I think we’re a bit more experienced now that we’ve had two finals under our belt,” he said ahead of the final four clash in Johannesburg on Saturday.

“I definitely believe we’re as strong as we were a year ago.”

The other semifinal is an all-New Zealand affair pitting the defending champions Canterbury Crusaders against Wellington Hurricanes in Christchurch.

The Lions start as favourites against the Waratahs, who have never won a finals match away from home and suffered a 29-0 loss to the South Africans in Sydney earlier this year.

Former Lions coach Johan Ackerman predicted the Sydneysiders, who staged an epic comeback against Otago Highlanders to reach the semis, would struggle at altitude in Johannesburg.

“(The Lions) have shown they can go into an extra gear in the last 20 minutes, the Waratahs won’t be able to keep up with the pace over the 80 minutes,” he said.

“They won’t come back like they did against the Highlanders.”

The Waratahs have not won at Ellis Park since 2009 but halfback Nick Phipps said they would stick with their brand of “quick, unrelenting footy”.

“We’re not going to come into a semifinal and change the way we play

RUGBY

now,” he said.

“We’re not going to die wondering. We’re ready to play our game and play it to the best of our ability.”

Meanwhile, Christchurch is often the springboard for a pleasurable road trip in New Zealand but the Canterbury Crusaders’ home base has proved a dead end for the Super Rugby title hopes of the Wellington Hurricanes.

The Hurricanes face their demons again in the semifinal at Rugby League Park on Saturday when they take on the champions they have never beaten in a postseason match.

The Hurricanes have ventured south four times in the playoffs, including the infamous “foggy final” of 2006 when a thick mist at Lancaster Park turned the decider into something of a farce.

They left each time after a lesson in finals football from the competition’s benchmark side, and the weight of history will be a heavy burden for Chris Boyd’s team on the weekend.

That aside, the Hurricanes may be the only team capable of upsetting the eight-times champions, even if their form in the final rounds of the regular season was anything but inspiring.

Laden with All Blacks and boasting extraordinary firepower, the Hurricanes have won eight of their last 12 matches against the Crusaders, and edged them 29-19 at home in March after storming to an early 21-0 lead.

Most neutral fans will see the follow-up match in Christchurch in May as the more likely pointer to Saturday’s clash, however.

Lacking seven first-choice players, the Crusaders forwards completely choked off supply to flyhalf Beauden Barrett and the Hurricanes backs to claim a bruising 24-13 win in the wet.

PROVIDENCE, Guyana, July 26, (AFP): Shimron Hetmyer scored a superb century as Bangladesh stumbled in the final over to hand the West Indies a series-levelling victory in their one-day game here Wednesday.

The hosts made it 1-1 in the best-of-three series after Bangladesh failed to score eight runs off their final over for what would have been a series win.

Shimron Hetmyer blazed 125 off 93 balls to pace the home side to a competitive 271 all out batting first.

Bangladesh were left stranded on 268 for six after their 50 overs as West Indies held on for a three-run win.

West Indies captain Jason Holder, who started the innings by conceding 20 runs and whose final analysis

CRICKET

of one for 66 was the most expensive ever by a Caribbean bowler in an ODI against Bangladesh, bowled the 50th over to give the hosts the victory.

Holder’s first delivery accounted for topscorer Mushfiquur Rahim for 68 via a catch on the midwicket boundary and he conceded just four runs off the remaining five deliveries to celebrate a result with his teammates which leaves the series to be decided in the final match on Saturday in St Kitts.

“We just had to hang in there and believe in ourselves,” said the delighted captain after the match.

“Bangladesh came at us hard and credit to them for the way they batted at the top. But we didn’t give up and it really sets things up for the final match.” Yet it should never have come to the final over drama, especially af-



Mushfiquur Rahim (down) of Bangladesh survives a run out by Shai Hope (top) of West Indies during the 2nd ODI match between West Indies and Bangladesh at Guyana National Stadium, Providence, Guyana on July 25. (AFP)



Shimron Hetmyer of West Indies hits 4 during the 2nd ODI match between West Indies and Bangladesh at Guyana National Stadium, Providence, Guyana on July 25. (AFP)

Hetmyer ton as Windies level Bangladesh series

West Indies hold on for a 3-run win

West Indies vs Bangladesh Scoreboard

PROVIDENCE, Guyana, July 26, (AFP): Scoreboard after West Indies defeated Bangladesh by three runs in second One-Day International of the three-match series at the Guyana National Stadium on Wednesday.

**WEST INDIES**

C. Gayle lbw Mehidy Hasan..... 29  
E. Lewis lbw Mashrafe Mortaza .. 12  
S. Hope c Sabbir Rahman b Shakib al Hasan ..... 25  
S. Hetmyer run out ..... 125  
J. Mohammed c wkpr Mushfiquur Rahim b Rubel Hossain ..... 12  
R. Powell b Rubel Hossain ..... 44  
J. Holder stpd wkpr Mushfiquur Rahim b Shakib al Hasan ..... 7  
A. Nurse c Tamim Iqbal b Mustafizur Rahman ..... 3  
K. Paul c wkpr Mushfiquur Rahim b Rubel Hossain ..... 4  
D. Bishoo b Mustafizur Rahman ... 0  
A. Joseph not out ..... 1  
Extras (lb-6, nb-1, w-2) ..... 9  
Total (49.3 overs, all out) ..... 271  
Fall of wickets: 1-29 (Lewis), 2-55 (Gayle), 3-73 (Hope), 4-102 (Mohammed), 5-205 (Powell), 6-224 (Holder), 7-236 (Nurse), 8-241 (Paul), 9-242 (Bishoo), 10-271 (Hetmyer)  
Bowling: Mashrafe Mortaza 9-044-1, Mehidy Hasan 10-3-40-1,

Mustafizur Rahman 8.3-0-44-2, Mosaddek Hossain 4-0-31-0, Shakib al Hasan 9-1-45-2, Rubel Hossain 9-0-61-3 (1nb, 2w)

**BANGLADESH**

Tamim Iqbal st Hope b Bishoo... 54  
Anamul Haque b Joseph..... 23  
Shakib al Hasan c Paul b Nurse 56  
Mushfiquur Rahim c Paul b Holder .... 68  
Mahmudullah run out..... 39  
Sabbir Rahman c Hetmyer b Paul ... 12  
Mosaddek Hossain not out ..... 3  
Mashrafe Mortaza not out ..... 1  
Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-7) ..... 268  
Total (50 overs, 6 wickets) ..... 128  
Fall of wickets: 1-32 (Anamul Haque), 2-129, (Tamim Iqbal), 3-145 (Shakib al Hasan), 4-232 (Mahmudullah), 5-264 (Sabbir Rahman), 6-264 (Mushfiquur Rahim)  
Did not bat: Mehidy Hasan, Rubel Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman  
Bowling: A. Joseph 6-0-55-1 (1w), J. Holder 10-0-56-1 (2w), A. Nurse 10-0-34-1 (2w), K. Paul 7-0-43-1 (1w), C. Gayle 7-0-26-0 (1w), D. Bishoo 10-0-35-1  
Result: West Indies won by three runs  
Toss: Bangladesh  
Umpires: Gregory Brathwaite (BAR), Richard Illingworth (ENG)  
Match Referee: Chris Broad (ENG)

ter the flying start in which Bangladesh raced to their fastest-ever fifty in ODIs — off 4.4 overs — and were 71 for one by the seventh over and apparently cruising.

However both Tamim Iqbal (54) and Shakib al Hasan (56) fell to careless shots to spinners Devendra Bishoo and Ashley Nurse respectively to get the West Indies back into the fray.

Mushfiquur and Mahmudullah, who contributed 39, then featured in an 87-run fourth-wicket stand that looked to have tilted the balance decisively Bangladesh’s way.

There were more twists to come though as Mahmudullah was run out at the start of the 46th over at 232 for four, which opened the door to a West Indies team who appeared to have been closed out from the contest just minutes earlier.

“It was a game we should have won but we made too many mistakes at the end,” said Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza.

“We weren’t at our best in the field either but the series is still alive and we believe we have what it takes to win it.”

MMA star McGregor makes plea deal to avoid jail term

NEW YORK, July 26, (AFP): Irish mixed martial arts superstar Conor McGregor pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn criminal court on Thursday to disorderly conduct, cutting a deal that allows him to avoid prison time over a New York brawl.

The 30-year-old, who is nicknamed “The Notorious,” had been charged with multiple counts of assault and criminal mischief after attacking a bus filled with Ultimate Fighting Championship contenders at the Barclays Center in April.

The frenzied attack injured two athletes.

McGregor pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of disorderly conduct in a fleeting court appearance, and was handed a punishment of five days’ community service and an anger management pro-

gram. All felony counts were dropped.

But he was served with “orders of protection,” to stay away from three people. McGregor stood before the judge, looking somber in a dark suit and striped tie, for the brief appearance.

“I just want to say I’m thankful to the DA (district attorney) and the judge for allowing me to move forward,” a visibly relieved McGregor told reporters outside the court.

“I want to say to my friends, my family, my fans – thank you for the support.”

“Now it’s about getting back to business,” said his manager, Audie Attar.

He had faced up to seven years in prison if convicted on all counts, and was released on \$50,000 bail following his arrest.



Ferrari attempt to bounce back from Vettel’s crashing

‘Half-time’ champions Mercedes face struggle in Hungarian heat

BUDAPEST, July 26, (AFP): Mercedes team chief Toto Wolff has admitted that his “half-time” champions are struggling for supremacy and expects this weekend’s Hungarian Grand Prix to deliver another closely-fought three-way fight for glory.

Just days after seeing Lewis Hamilton claim one of the greatest wins of his career with an epic rain-soaked triumph in Germany, Wolff conceded that “in the cold light of day, we know and recognise that we didn’t bring the quickest car to Hockenheim.”

And, as a result, he said: “We all know that no prizes are given out for half-time champions, so will keep pushing to improve our performance.”

After 11 of this year’s 21 races, Hamilton and Mercedes sit atop the drivers and constructors championships, but only by a narrow margin, and Wolff knows that it will require another special effort in the expected

sweltering heat of the Hungaroring for his team to head off for their European summer holidays as leaders.

“Hungary will be another tough fight with both Ferrari and Red Bull,” he said.

“It’s a high down-force track and on paper they should both be very fast. However, if there’s one thing the German Grand Prix taught us, it’s that predictions don’t determine results.”

MOTOR RACING

After struggling for power at recent circuits, the Hungaroring’s layout and characteristics make Red Bull strong contenders for success because their car has the chassis handling that will enable them to compete at the front.

Daniel Ricciardo won the Monaco Grand Prix this year and has shown on the tight and technical circuits that he

has the ability to deliver results, albeit with his team-mate Max Verstappen also representing a serious threat. He won in Hungary in 2014.

The Australian is expected to have his future with Red Bull resolved this weekend and another win, his third of the season, would be a timely confirmation of his and the team’s potential.

It would also not be an entirely unwelcome result for Hamilton or Mercedes if it deprives rivals Sebastian Vettel and Ferrari of points in the ‘fight for five’ titles that has dominated the season to date.

For Ferrari, the race will be overshadowed by the death of former chairman Sergio Marchionne this



Vettel

week as they attempt to bounce back from Vettel’s crashing, and pointlessly, exit in the rain last weekend.

Vettel’s misfortune allowed Hamilton to turn an eight-point deficit into a 17-points lead with his epic win from 14th on the grid.

But, he knows too, that despite having won a record five times in Hungary, this weekend’s contest will not be straightforward.

“It’s not usually our strongest track, but it’s not a power circuit so hopefully this extra chunk of power that Ferrari have doesn’t serve them as well there and maybe we can have a decent fight.

“They have always been really good on tyres it’s a hot track so, undoubtedly, they’ll continue to be fast, but I’ve still got high hopes.”

Ricciardo will go into the weekend well prepared, after taking engine penalties at Hockenheim for strategic reasons, but concerned about the power failure that forced him to retire.



In this file photo dated July 22, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates after winning the German Formula One Grand Prix at the Hockenheimring racetrack in Hockenheim, Germany. (AP)

Ledecky eases to win 800m freestyle at US champ’ships



Hali Flickinger swims to a first place finish in the Women 200 Meter Butterfly Final during day 1 of the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships at the Woollett Aquatics Center on July 25 in Irvine, California. (AFP)

Flickinger caps a career day with 200m butterfly victory

IRVINE, US, July 26, (AFP): World record-holder Katie Ledecky cruised to victory in the 800m freestyle at the US swimming championships on Wednesday to lock down a berth for the Pan Pacific Championships next month.

Ledecky, owner of the top 10 times ever posted in the event, was under world record pace through 350 meters, but settled for a comfortable victory in 8min 11.98 sec

SWIMMING

— well outside the world record of 4:08.79 she set at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

The 21-year-old American was confident she would find more speed before the Pan Pacs in Tokyo Aug 9-14.

While Ledecky was easing into the meet — a qualifier not only for Pan Pacs but also for next year’s world championships in South Korea — Hali Flickinger capped a career day with a victory in the 200m butterfly.

Flickinger, 24, sliced almost a full second of her lifetime best in the heats with a time of 2:05.87.

She broke the US Open record of 2:05.96 set by Mary T. Meagher in 1981 in becoming the third-fastest US woman ever.

She couldn’t quite reproduce that in the final, but she held on to win in 2:06.14, with Katie Drabot second in 2:07.18 and Regan Smith third in 2:07.42.

Blake Pieroni, 22, stormed home to beat 2012 Olympic champion Nathan Adrian in the 100m freestyle in 48.08sec.

Adrian, who also owns four Olympic relay golds, was philosophical.

Townley Haas was third in 48.30 and Zachary Apple fourth in 48.34. Caeleb Dressel, who won the 100m free as part of his seven-gold haul at the world championships in Budapest last year, finished sixth in 48.50.

He was entered in seven more events this week, so still had plenty of chances to make the Pan Pacs, where he could yet secure a 100m free berth at the 2019 worlds.

Adrian said Dressel, who inked his first sponsorship deal with Speedo last week, was adjusting to his departure from the US collegiate amateur ranks

USADA chief condemns IOC over Russian doping

CAS dismisses Oly appeals from Russia trio

ZURICH, July 26, (Agencies): The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed appeals from three Russian athletes against decisions issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that found them guilty of violating anti-doping rules.

The CAS confirmed the IOC’s decisions to disqualify track cyclist Ekaterina Gnidenko from the 2012 London Olympic Games and Maria Abakumova, silver medallist in javelin, and Tatyana Lebedeva, silver medallist in long jump and triple jump, from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

All three were excluded from the Games after re-testing of samples revealed the presence of the banned anabolic steroid Chlorodehydromethyltestosterone (CDMT).

The trio had appealed their bans to the court, looking to have them set aside.

“The CAS panel found that the appellants were unable to prove that the testing methods adopted by the laboratories, which led to the positive findings against each of them, were not scientifically valid in accordance with the standard required to be applied,” said a media statement released on

Thursday.

The shadow of doping has hung heavily over Russian sport since 2015 on the back of a series of scandals which culminated in the IOC banning the country from this year’s Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

The IOC said it had found evidence of an “unprecedented systematic manipulation” of the anti-doping system that led to a series of suspensions for the country’s athletes.

Russia, which has since been

OLYMPICS

restored to the movement, has denied state-sponsored doping and pledged to work with international sports bodies to help curb the use of banned substances.

Lebedeva, who still has an Olympic long jump gold medal from the 2004 Athens Games and a triple jump silver from Sydney in 2000, retired from competition in 2013.

The head of the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) blasted the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Wednesday for failing to hold Russia accountable for doping

in sports.

Referring to the IOC decision to allow Russian athletes to take part in the Rio and Pyeongchang Olympic games, USADA CEO Travis Tygart said the IOC “chose not to stand up for clean athletes and against institutionalized doping.”

“Certainly, history will not judge that decision kindly,” Tygart said at a hearing on doping in sports held by the US Helsinki Commission, a US agency that looks at human rights in Europe.

The International Olympic Committee hit back Thursday at the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) after its chief accused the IOC of failing to hold Russia accountable for doping in sports.

In a rebuke directed at USADA CEO Travis Tygart, the IOC chastised the US over its struggles in tackling doping in its domestic leagues and for refusing to join the international fight against corruption in sport.

Tygart had in testimony to a US agency that looks at human rights in Europe said that in allowing Russian athletes to take part in the Rio and Pyeongchang Olympic games, the IOC “chose not to stand up for clean athletes and against institutionalised doping”.

at the right time, with the 2020 Tokyo Olympics still two years away.

World and Olympic champion



Katie Ledecky before her swim in the Women 100 Meter Freestyle Heat 12 during day 1 of the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships at the Woollett Aquatics Center on July 25 in Irvine, California. (AFP)

Simone Manuel notched a dominant victory in the women’s 100m free in 52.54, with Mallory Comerford’s second in 53.09 and Margo Geer third in 53.44.

Justin Wright surged from seventh place at the halfway stage — fifth at the final turn — to win the men’s 200m fly in 1:54.63.

Zach Harting was second in 1:55.11 and 16-year-old Gianluca Orlando and Jack Conger tied for third in 1:55.21.

Jordan Wilimovsky, already headed to Pan Pacs in open water, won the men’s 1,500m free in 14:48.89 — fifth fastest in the world this year.

Bob Bowman, the longtime coach of swimming superstar Michael Phelps, has apologized for his role in “inappropriate” text messages sent in 2011 to a former Olympic swimmer Caroline Burckle.

The Orange County Register last week reported Burckle’s allegation that she received “aggressive” sexually graphic text messages and a voice-mail from a phone belonging to Bowman in May of 2011, the year after she retired from the sport.

Rookie DeShields ties season best with 25 points

Sky top Mercury before All-Star break

PHOENIX, July 26, (AP): Rookie Diamond DeShields tied a season best with 25 points, Courtney Vandersloot had 17 points and 11 assists and the Chicago Sky beat the short-handed Phoenix Mercury 101-87 on

BASKETBALL

Wednesday in the final game before the All-Star break.

Chicago led by 16 points early in the second half but Phoenix went on an 11-2 run to pull to 61-59. Chicago opened the fourth quarter on a 7-2 run, capped by

DeShields’ offensive rebound and layup, and led by double figures for the final four minutes.

Allie Quigley added 19 points, with five 3-pointers, for Chicago (9-17). Stefanie Dolson had 13 points for her sixth straight game in double figures.

Chicago shot 67.7 percent from the field (21 of 32) in the first half en route to a 56-43 lead. DeShields made



DeShields

all seven of her first-quarter field goals for 15 points.

DeWanna Bonner had 30 points and 13 rebounds for Phoenix (15-11), which has lost six of its last seven games. Phoenix was without Diana Taurasi, who did not play due to a suspension after reaching the WNBA’s technical foul limit of seven.

Phoenix center Brittney Griner picked up her fourth foul with 9:26 remaining in the third quarter. After a review, she was given a flagrant 2 for an elbow to Dolson and was ejected. Last month, Griner was ejected after striking Dolson with a left hand to the face.

Ideal time window

Why the Summer Olympics are held in July & Aug despite heat

TOKYO, July 26, (RTRS): A heat wave scorching Japan is raising questions about timing the Tokyo 2020 Olympics during July and August, typically the annual peak for temperatures and humidity, and the health risks that might pose for athletes and spectators.

When Tokyo first hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964, they were held during the cooler, drier month of October. The 1968 Mexico City games were also held in October.

But most Summer Olympics for the past three decades have been held in July or August, recognised as an ideal time window for TV networks to cover the event.

OLYMPICS

They pay billions of dollars for broadcasting rights during these months when the global sports calendar is otherwise light, increasing the chances of capturing a bigger audience.

Neal Pilson, the former president of CBS Sports, which broadcast the 1992, 1994 and 1998 Winter Olympics in the United States, said “the IOC is well aware of American network preferences for the timing of the Summer and Winter games,” referring to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

“The Summer Olympics are simply of less value if held in October because of pre-existing programme commitments for sports,” he told Reuters.

The IOC stipulated that bidders for the 2020 Olympics should hold the event between July 15 and Aug 31. Tokyo chose July 24 to Aug 9.

To set the dates, the IOC gets input from international sporting federations so as not to interrupt their schedules.

But the dates are also chosen because of the lull in the sports calendar, public Olympic records show and TV sports marketing experts say.

In September or October, the Olympics would have to compete for viewers’ attention against other events, such as the start of the NFL American football season, Major League Baseball playoffs in the United States and the early months of the soccer season in Europe.

“It’s designed to fit in this window, a lull in the sports schedule where not much is going on,” said Victor Matheson, a professor of economics at College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts.

Candidate cities can propose alternative dates, although they are not always granted. When Doha in Qatar proposed hosting the 2020 games in October because it was too hot in July and August, the Olympic Broadcasting Services, which provides TV coverage for many events, and International Television and Marketing Services were critical of the idea in feedback published in an April 2012 Olympic working group report.

“Olympic Games held in the IOC’s preferred period of July/August provide broadcasters with

a ‘guarantee’ that they will be prime-time market leaders,” the feedback read. “In October, broadcasters would face lower viewership/ratings levels.”

NBC, which in 2014 agreed to pay the IOC \$7.65 billion for exclusive broadcasting rights in the United States through 2032, declined to comment.

Discovery Communications, which acquired Eurosport in 2015 and spent 1.3 billion euros to buy pan-European rights to four Olympics through the Paris 2024 games, also declined to comment.

IOC spokesman Michael Noyelle said in an email that broadcasters provide their input during the development of the competition schedule after the Olympics dates have been set.

The IOC established July and August as the months to hold the Summer Olympics in 2000, Noyelle said. “As there was no exception requested for the Tokyo 2020 candidature, no stakeholders were consulted on Tokyo’s dates,” he said.

Most Summer Olympics have been held in July and August since 1976, and organisers have had to cope with hot weather in several host cities.

Exceptions to the dates are made. The 2000 Sydney games were held in the last two weeks of September to adjust to the Southern Hemisphere weather.

Tokyo said in its bid that its proposed dates have “many days of mild and sunny weather,” providing “an ideal climate for athletes to perform at their best.”

The concerns about high temperatures during the Olympics have arisen because of a heatwave in Japan this year.

Temperatures soared to a record 41.1 Celsius (106 F) on Monday just north of Tokyo. At least 80 people have died and thousands have gone to hospitals.

However, the average high for the last 10 days of July and first 10 days of August in Tokyo over the past 20 years has been about 32 Celsius (90 F), according to Japan Meteorological Agency data.

A team of international researchers that gathered heat, humidity and other data along the proposed Tokyo marathon course in late July and August in 2016 and 2017 found conditions could put athletes and spectators at increased risk of heat stroke, and have urged organisers to create more areas of shade.

“I’m afraid that Tokyo’s conditions will be the worst in Olympic history” for the marathon, said Makoto Yokohari, a professor of environmental studies at the University of Tokyo who was involved in the study and is an advisor to Olympics planners.



Pilson





DC United goalkeeper David Ousted (left), blocks the ball next to New York Red Bulls forward Bradley Wright-Phillips (right), during the first half of an MLS soccer match on July 25, in Washington. (AP)

# Phillips scores historic goal as Red Bulls ‘pip’ D.C. Utd

Union pull away from 10-man Dynamo

**NEW YORK, July 26, (RTRS):** Bradley Wright-Phillips’ historic 100th MLS goal in the second minute was the difference as the New York Red Bulls earned their third consecutive win, a 1-0 victory over D.C. United at Audi Field in Washington on Wednesday.

The Red Bulls (13-5-2, 41 points) moved a point ahead of New York City FC for second place in the Eastern Conference, three points behind first-place Atlanta United.

D.C. (3-9-5, 14 points) is 1-4-3 in the past eight matches.

Wright-Phillips became the fastest of the 11 MLS players to score 100 goals when he reached the milestone in his 159th regular-season match, 15 fewer games than former New England Revolution forward Taylor Twellman.

After a 79-minute weather delay to the start the match, the Red Bulls’ No. 99, Wright-Phillips, quickly made it to the century mark.

Midfielder Kaku caught the United defense flat-footed as Wright-Phillips made a perfectly timed run to take the pass on the left side of the box. The New York forward then slotted the ball under the right arm of goalkeeper David Ousted for his 14th goal of the season and Kaku’s league-leading 13th assist.

Wright-Phillips immediately whipped off his red jersey to reveal a white Red Bulls kit with the No. 100 on the back. He received a yellow card

## SOCCER

for delay of game. He almost added to his goal total in the 44th minute with a right-footed stab of a cross from Kaku to the near post. This came after D.C.’s Paul Arriola had a goal reversed by video review for being offside in the 28th minute.

Wright-Phillips was again set up by Kaku’s weighted pass in the 59th minute but was denied by an Ousted leg save.

Luis Robles made two saves for the Red Bulls in recording his seventh shutout.

On Saturday, D.C. will play host to the Colorado Rapids while the Red Bulls host the Columbus Crew.

**Union 3, Dynamo 1**  
Alejandro Bedoya, Cory Burke and Fafa Picault each scored a goal, and the visiting Philadelphia Union rallied for a 3-1 victory over the 10-man Houston Dynamo on Wednesday night at BBVA Compass Stadium.

Borek Dockal added two assists for the Union, giving him nine this season.

The Union (8-10-3, 27 points) earned their second consecutive road win to improve to 3-6-1 away from home. Mauro Manotas scored for the Dynamo (7-7-6, 27 points), who couldn’t sustain a 1-0 advantage at home. Houston had won seven in a row at home in league play and 10 straight home contests in all competitions.

The Dynamo went ahead 1-0 in



Toronto FC’s Marco Delgado (left), and Ottawa Fury FC’s Thomas Meilleur-Giguere vie for the ball during the first half of the second leg of a semifinal in the Canadian soccer championship, on July 25, in Toronto. (AP)

## Tite keeps Brazil job despite World Cup flop

**RIO DE JANEIRO, July 26, (AFP):** Tite was handed a new contract to remain as coach of the Brazil national team until 2022 on Wednesday despite their traumatic World Cup quarter-final exit in Russia, the Brazilian football federation (CBF) said.

“The CBF has renewed the contract with coach Tite until the end of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar,” wrote the CBF on its website.

Tite is the first coach of the Brazil national team to be re-appointed after a World Cup elimination since Claudio Coutinho in 1978.

Brazil, with superstar Neymar in their ranks, were regarded as one of the favourites for the 2018 World Cup but they were knocked out in the last-eight, losing 2-1 to Belgium.

“The federation has given us the conditions to build an environment of unity and professionalism, it’s a great challenge and we are happy to face it, already focused on our next matches and competitions,” Tite said in a statement.

Tite’s first challenge will be to win the Copa America in 2019 when Brazil hosts the tournament.

Brazil will begin their post-World Cup rehabilitation

with a series of friendlies, the first of which is against the United States in New Jersey on September 7.

“The CBF is investing in a long-term project to guarantee the staff six-and-a-half-years in charge of La Selecao, and we believe that this careful planning will bring to Brazilian football the results we expect,” said Rogerio Caboclo, the executive director of the CBF.

Adenor Leonardo Bacchi, who is universally known by his nickname Tite, took over the Brazil job in June 2016 and immediately faced a daunting task.

The team under Dunga, who’d been fired, were an embarrassment. And Dunga himself had been hired in 2014 to resurrect a team reeling from the ultimate humiliation of that 7-1 loss to Germany in the semi-finals of the World Cup on Brazilian soil.

By the time Tite took over, Brazil had already played a third of their qualifying games for the 2018 tournament and Tite wondered whether he’d have time to turn the slow-motion disaster around.

Immediately after getting the job, “I said to myself... ‘What if I don’t manage to qualify?’” he told TV Globo recently.

the 10th minute when Union defender Mark McKenzie turned the ball over and Manotas capitalized with his career-best 11th goal.

In the 22nd minute, the Union had a free kick from about 30 yards out, and Haris Medunjanin sent a strike to the back post. However, David Accam couldn’t quite get on the back end of the kick, and the ball landed out of bounds.

Bedoya equalized at 1 in the 34th minute when he slipped into the box and chipped the shot over Dynamo goalkeeper Joe Willis.

Houston applied some pressure in the 44th minute when Manotas nearly scored his second goal. His strong right-footed shot was saved by Philadelphia goalkeeper Andre Blake, and the teams went into their locker rooms

tied at 1.

Alberth Elis had a solid scoring opportunity for the Dynamo in the 54th minute as he received a cross in the box. Blake came out of the goal, managed to break up the chance, and the ball was cleared.

Houston midfielder Tomas Martinez was given a red card in the 59th minute after a video review showed him taking down Austin Trusty just in front of the Philadelphia goal. The Dynamo played with 10 men the rest of the game.

Burke’s fifth goal of the season pushed the Union ahead 2-1 in the 70th minute.

In the 96th minute, Picault converted a penalty kick after Fabian Herbers was taken down in the box during stoppage time.

**Sounders 1, Earthquakes 0**

For his 28th birthday, Raul Ruidiaz got his first MLS start.

And the Peruvian international paid back the Seattle Sounders with an even more important gift, scoring the lone goal in a 1-0 road victory against the San Jose Earthquakes on Wednesday night.

Ruidiaz took a cross from Cristian Roldan at the top of the penalty box, made one touch and then volleyed the ball past diving San Jose goalkeeper Andrew Tarbell and into the lower left corner of the net in the 62nd minute.

Goalkeeper Stefan Frei made five saves to post the shutout, and the Sounders (6-9-5, 23 points) remained unbeaten in five matches this month (3-0-2) as the two-time defending Western Conference champions attempt to make another late-season rally.

## Moriyasu named new Japan coach

**TOKYO, July 26, (AFP):** Japan named Olympic coach Hajime Moriyasu as their new national football boss on Thursday.

The 49-year-old replaces Akira Nishino, who led the Blue Samurai to the last 16 of the World Cup in Russia in his two-month spell as caretaker coach.

Former Germany coach Jurgen Klinsmann had been linked to the job, along with ex-Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, but the Japan Football Association (JFA) went for a trusted insider.

Moriyasu, who will also maintain his current assignment as the coach for Japan’s under-21 team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, pledged to bring new blood to the top national side. “There will be generational changes. There will be integration of various generations of players,” he told a press conference.

Moriyasu was drafted in as an assistant to Nishino ahead of the World Cup after JFA chief Kozo Tashima abruptly fired Franco-Bosnian coach Vahid Halilhodzic in April following a poor run of form. Japan went on to reach the World Cup knockout stage for the first time since 2010.

Moriyasu, a former Japan international midfielder, steered Sanfrecce Hiroshima to three J-League titles between 2012 and 2015. Japan have had mixed results under foreign coaches since Dutchman Hans Ooft became the country’s first non-Japanese boss in 1992.

Frenchman Philippe Troussier led Japan to the last 16 as co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup.

But Brazilian legend Zico frittered away the talents of a so-called “golden generation” of players such as Hidetoshi Nakata and Shunsuke Nakamura in an anemic performance at the 2006 finals.



Moriyasu

## Soccer Transfer Roundup

### Newcastle sign Schaar

## Davies joins Bayern for MLS record fee

**LOS ANGELES, July 26, (Agencies):** Vancouver Whitecaps starlet Alphonso Davies has joined Bayern Munich in a record-breaking \$13 million deal, the highest transfer fee ever paid for a Major League Soccer player, it was confirmed on Wednesday.

Davies, who turns 18 in November, has signed a contract which runs from January 2019 until June 2023, the two clubs confirmed.

The Whitecaps said the deal could be worth up to \$22 million if certain targets are met. US media reports said Bayern had paid a \$13 million transfer fee for the winger.

“As a kid, I always dreamed of a moment like this,” Davies said in a statement.

“Now that the dream has come true, the work continues as always. I have to keep pushing and keep striving, and also keep being me on the field. Ever since I joined the ‘Caps when I was 14, they molded me throughout the years into the pro that I’ve become.”

Davies will play the remainder of the MLS season before joining Bayern in January.

The transfer is the latest step on a remarkable rise for the teenaged Canadian international.

Davies was born in a refugee camp in Ghana in 2000 after his parents fled fighting in the second Liberian civil war.

When Davies was five his family moved to Canada as refugees.

His talent for football was quickly spotted and he joined the Whitecaps youth set-up in 2015 at the age of 14.

He made his MLS debut for Vancouver in 2016 and a year later played for Canada in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, finishing the tournament as joint top-scorer with three goals.

Vancouver co-owner Jeff Mallett meanwhile said the club was proud of Davies’ progress.

“This is a landmark transfer for our club, country, and league,” Mallett said.

“Youth development is a core part of our club. We provide player development opportunities across Canada through regional camps, tournaments, our national academy centres and Residency program. “Alphonso is an inspirational example of what is possible, and we are excited about how this transfer showcases our commitment to homegrown players for our club and country.”

**Newcastle United** announced on Thursday the signing of Switzerland defender **Fabian Schaar** from **Deportivo La Coruna**.

Schaar played in three of Switzerland’s four games at the World Cup in Russia, helping the Swiss

to progress from Group E — along with Brazil — before missing their last-16 defeat by Sweden through suspension.

He made 25 appearances for Deportivo in La Liga last season, having moved to the Spanish outfit from 1899 Hoffenheim a year ago.

The defender, 26, is the Magpies’ fourth signing of the summer, following the arrivals of Slovakia’s **Martin Dubravka** and South Korea’s **Ki Sung-yueng** and the loan capture of Brazilian **Kenedy**.

“I’m really happy to be here,” said Schaar. “The club is a really big club for me. It has a big name and it is a brilliant chance for me. “I’m not like a typical defender. I, of course, defend but I’m quite good with the ball.

“I like to play. I want to build up the game from behind and I think that is a strength of mine. I have also scored some headers. That could also be a strength and hopefully I can use it here.”

□ □ □

**Chelsea** have signed 38-year-old former England goalkeeper **Rob Green** to a one-year contract as back-up for **Thibaut Courtois** and **Willy Caballero**, the Premier League club have said.

Green, who also played for **West Ham United**, **Queens Park Rangers** and **Norwich City**, was released by **Huddersfield Town** at the end of last season having made just one League Cup appearance.

□ □ □

**Fulham** have signed German playmaker **Andre Schuerle** on a two-year loan deal from Bundesliga side **Borussia Dortmund**, the Premier League club said.

The 27-year-old, a World Cup winner with Germany in 2014, will be eager to overcome injury troubles he has faced in recent years, with a muscle fibre problem limiting him to just 18 appearances in the German top-flight last season.

“Fulham were the first club that showed interest in me — that was something that I appreciated a lot, and one of the reasons I wanted to come here.”

“I love ball possession, I love attacking, and I love making runs, so I think it could be perfect. I have to fight for my place and I have to show my quality so that I can be a member who really helps the team.”

□ □ □

Ghanaian international **Andre Ayew** was heading to Istanbul on Thursday where he will join **Fenerbahce** after the club announced a one-year loan from **Swansea City**.

The 28-year-old midfielder was Swansea’s top last season but could not prevent their relegation and as he commands a large salary the Welsh club have allowed him to go.

Ayew, one of several footballing brothers and the son of **Abedi Pele** the former African footballer of the year, started his rise at French outfit **Marseille**, where his father also shone.



# Salah, Mane star as Liverpool down City

Man Utd, Atletico win

**EAST RUTHERFORD, United States, July 26, (AFP):** Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane made an instant impact as Liverpool came from behind to beat Premier League champions Manchester City 2-1 in their International Champions Cup friendly match on Wednesday.

Mane stroked home Liverpool's winner from the penalty spot deep into stoppage time to give Jurgen Klopp's men a morale-boosting victory over an under-strength City team at the MetLife Stadium.



Salah

Both Klopp and City boss Pep Guardiola were unimpressed with the makeshift playing surface in a venue used by the New York Giants and New York Jets NFL teams. Guardiola meanwhile said he was relieved no players were injured.

Both Liverpool and City's pre-season preparations in the United States have been disrupted by the absence of several key players who starred in the World Cup.

Guardiola however sounded a positive note about the absences.

Salah and Mane both reported for duty for Liverpool in time for Wednesday's game.

Nonetheless, it was City who took the lead just after half-time when German international Leroy Sane caught Liverpool's defence napping and burst clear to slot past Caoimhin Kelleher on 57 minutes.

Egypt star Salah, however, was quick to make his mark after coming on for Curtis Jones in the 62nd minute, scoring a header with virtually his first touch of the game to level it at 1-1.

The game appeared to be heading for a draw until Tosin Adarabioyo crashed into Dominic Solanke in the area for a certain penalty.

Mane stepped up to send Joe Hart the wrong way and give Klopp's team the win.

Alexis Sanchez was on target as Manchester United defeated AC Milan on penalties in their International Champions Cup.

Chilean international Sanchez was United's best performer in a low-key game at Carson's StubHub Center which finished 1-1.

Sanchez fired United into the lead with a well-taken goal on 12 minutes before Spanish midfielder Suso equal-

ised for Milan three minutes later.

Although Sanchez produced a lively performance for United, the Premier League giants were unable to find a further goal, sending the game to penalties.

A bizarre shoot-out was won 9-8 by United, with both teams having to recycle their penalty takers after a string of missed spot-kicks.

Ander Herrera fired United into the lead in sudden death with his second penalty before Ivorian youngster Franck Kessie chipped his spot-kick over the bar to give United the win.

United's Portuguese goalkeeper Joel Pereira, deputising for the absent David De Gea and Sergio Romero, said he hoped his performance in the shoot-out had helped his bid to win a place in

## SOCCER

manager Jose Mourinho's squad.

New-look Arsenal left out controversy-hit Mesut Ozil but still impressed before they were edged 3-1 on penalties by Europa League champions Atletico Madrid in a friendly.

Ozil, who caused a furore when he quit German national duty claiming racism, was rested after his World Cup exertions as 17-year-old midfielder Emile Smith Rowe took centre-stage in Singapore.

After Luciano Vietto's opener for Atletico against the run of play, teenager Smith Rowe hit a dazzling equaliser — his first senior goal — in front of new boss Unai Emery as it finished 1-1 after normal time.

Under International Champions Cup rules, the game went straight to penalties where substitute Atletico goalkeeper Antonio Adan starred, saving three before coolly slotting the winner himself.

Both sides started with unfamiliar line-ups but Arsenal were the dominant force in the first half before they were hit with a sucker-punch four minutes from the break.

In a rare Atletico foray forward, Angel Correa crossed from the byline to his fellow Argentine Vietto, whose header looped past new Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno.

The German, starting ahead of Petr Cech in goal, otherwise had little to do as Arsenal, employing Emery's trademark high press, kept Atletico in their own half.

French forward Alexandre Lacazette was denied from close range on three occasions, including a full-length save by Atletico's Jan Oblak after good work from Smith Rowe.

But Arsenal struck two minutes into the second half when Smith Rowe curled the equaliser into the top corner from the edge of the box, before being mobbed by his team-mates.



Liverpool forward Daniel Sturridge (left), drives with the ball as Manchester City defender Eric Garcia reaches for the steal during the first half of an International Champions Cup tournament soccer match on July 25, in East Rutherford, NJ. (AP)

## Soccer Roundup

### Ferguson 'humble' in 1st comments since brain surgery

## Ronaldo reaches deal with Tax Office to end case

BARCELONA, Spain, (Agencies): Spain's Tax Office has accepted a deal with Cristiano Ronaldo to plead guilty to tax fraud and pay a fine of close to 19 million euros (\$22 million) in exchange for a reduced prison sentence that will likely be suspended.

A source with knowledge of the deal confirmed to The Associated Press on Thursday the agreement will be finalized in the coming days.

The deal was first reported in Spanish media.

In Spain, a judge can suspend sentences for two years or less for first-time offenders.

Ronaldo had already reached a tentative deal with the state prosecutor's office, but Spain's tax authorities had yet to sign off on the agreement.

Last year, a Spanish state prosecutor accused Ronaldo of four counts of tax fraud from 2011-14 worth 14.7 million euros (\$16.5 million). The prosecutor accused the Portugal forward of having used shell companies outside Spain to hide income made from image rights. The accusation does not involve his salary from his former Real Madrid club.

Ronaldo denied any wrongdoing when questioned by a judge last July.

Spain's taxman wants Bayern Munich's Colombian midfielder James Rodriguez to pay 11.65 million euros (\$13.64m) for evading taxes when he played at Real Ma-

drig, the El Mundo daily reported Thursday. James, who moved to Bayern Munich last year, is accused of having evaded 6.35 million euros in taxes, mainly linked to his image rights, and would have to pay that amount plus a fine and interests for a total of 11.65 million euros, it reported.

Citing sources close to the case, the daily said James was transferred to Real Madrid from Monaco for 80 million euros mid-2014, but that year he registered as a non-resident.

Tax authorities, though, reportedly believe he should settle the difference, or 6.35 million euros, related to his salary and the sale of image rights.

Spain's tax authorities refused to comment when contacted by AFP.

Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has thanked medical staff in his first public comments since emergency brain surgery in May.

Ferguson, who has been recovering at home, released a video message through the club on Thursday.

The 76-year-old Ferguson, who

looks well in the video, says: "Believe me, without those people, who gave me such great care, I would not be sitting here today."

There was an outpouring of concern and well wishes from across the game over the health of the most successful manager in British football history after it was announced Ferguson underwent surgery for a brain hemorrhage.

He says he feels "humble," and thanked everyone for their support.

Ferguson adds: "I will be back later in the season to watch the team. In the meantime, all the best to Jose (Mourinho) and the players. Thank you very much."

The collapse of Germany winger Karim Bellarabi during a pre-season match this week has forced Bundesliga clubs to rethink their training schedules due to the heat-wave currently gripping northern European.

The 28-year-old broke down during a friendly 2-0 win for Bayer Leverkusen at fourth-division minnows Wuppertal on Tuesday.

He was later diagnosed as having suffered a circulatory collapse, due to temperatures well over 30 degrees Celsius. Bellarabi, who last played for Germany in 2016, was released from hospital in Wuppertal, near Duesseldorf, on Wednesday and is expected to return to training in the coming days.

Leverkusen said the winger "suffered excessive physical strain due

to extreme heat".

Leverkusen coach Heiko Herrlich suspects Bellarabi simply did not drink enough water during the match, "but the heat was extreme, it was brutal on the body even for those not playing".

The German weather service in Potsdam, near Berlin, is forecasting the hot weather here to continue well into next month.

With the Bundesliga set to resume on Aug 24, some clubs are rethinking their training schedules or moving sessions indoors. Leverkusen have switched Friday's planned outside afternoon training session to 0930 local time (0730 GMT).

Manchester United have launched their MUTV channel on Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Roku and Xbox in the latest effort by the Premier League club to grow their fanbase in the US, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa, the team said.

Subscribers to MUTV will be able to watch all of Manchester United's pre-season tour fixtures live and view post-match interviews with players and manager Mourinho.

"The continued expansion of MUTV and the launch on these platforms expands our reach, opens up new audiences, and provides our fans easy access to our award winning on-demand and linear programming without having to leave their set-top-box environment," Phil Lynch, the team's CEO of media, said in a statement.



Tottenham midfielder Luke Amos (right), battles Roma midfielder Lucas (27) for the ball during the first half of an International Champions Cup tournament soccer match on July 25, in San Diego. (AP)

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NOTICE

July 26, 2018

Mr. Joey Keith Fernandes son of Mr. Ignatius John Fernandes, resident of E 302, Shreeram Bhavan, Lower Kharodi Marve Road, Malvani No 1, Malad, West Mumbai 95 and Ms. Liane Jane D Souza daughter of Mr. Francis Lawrence D Souza, resident of 143, Victory house ST, Anthony Street, Vakola Santa Cruz, West Mumbai 55, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/ Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Communications in this regard can be made by Email: (attachecons@indembkwt.org, welfaresection@indembkwt.org) / letters / telephonic calls (00965-22550171, 00965-22533125).

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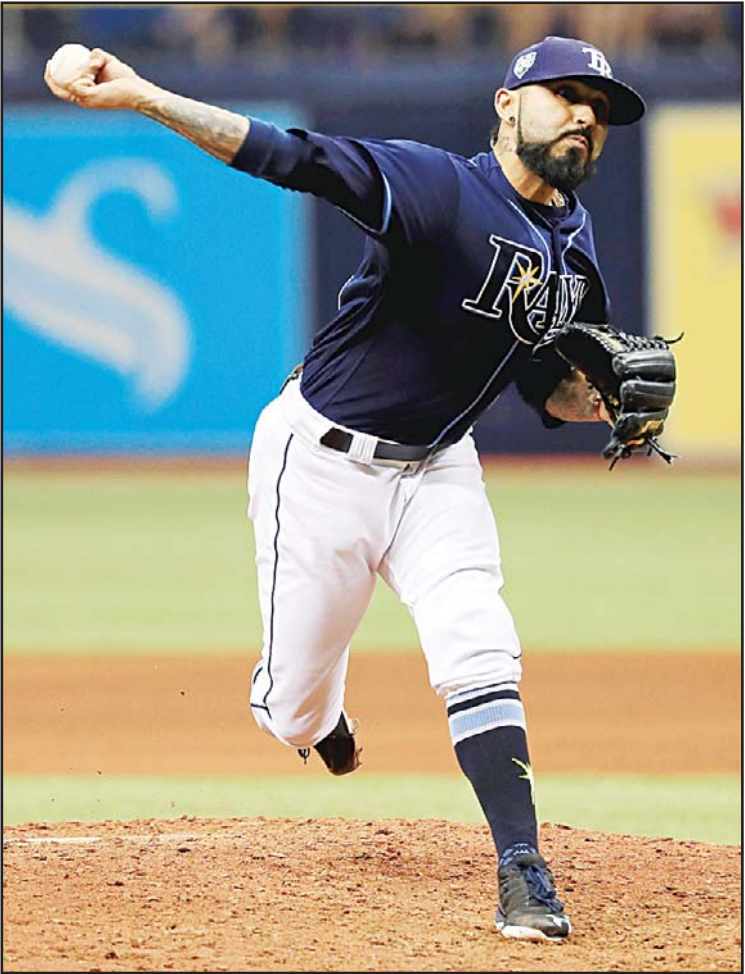
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Sergio Romo #54 of the Tampa Bay Rays pitches in the eighth inning during a game against the New York Yankees at Tropicana Field on July 25, in St Petersburg, Florida. (AFP)

MLB Scoreboard

WASHINGTON, July 26, (Agencies): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.									
Tampa Bay	3	NY Yankees	2						
NY Mets	6	San Diego	4						
Cincinnati	7	St Louis	3						
Philadelphia	7	LA Dodgers	3						
Cleveland	4	Pittsburgh	0						
Washington	7	Milwaukee	3						
Detroit	8	Kansas City	4						
Chicago Cubs	2	Anzونا	1						
Minnesota	12	Toronto (11 Inns)	6						
Seattle	3	San Francisco	2						
Oakland	6	Texas	5						
Colorado	3	Houston	2						
LA Angels	11	Chic W. Sox	3						
American League									
American League - East									
W	L	PCT	GB						
Boston	71	32	.689	-					
NY Yankees	64	36	.640	5-1/2					
Tampa Bay	52	50	.510	18-1/2					
Toronto	46	55	.455	24					
Baltimore	29	73	.284	41-1/2					
American League - Central									
W	L	PCT	GB						
Cleveland	55	46	.545	-					
Minnesota	47	53	.470	7-1/2					
Detroit	44	60	.423	12-1/2					
Chic W. Sox	36	65	.356	19					
Kansas City	31	70	.307	24					
American League - West									
W	L	PCT	GB						
Houston	67	37	.644	-					
Seattle	61	41	.598	5					
Oakland	60	43	.583	6-1/2					
LA Angels	51	52	.495	15-1/2					
Texas	42	61	.408	24-1/2					
National League									
National League - East									
W	L	PCT	GB						
Philadelphia	57	44	.564	-					
Atlanta	54	44	.551	1-1/2					
Washington	50	51	.495	7					
Miami	44	59	.427	14					
NY Mets	42	57	.424	14					
National League - Central									
W	L	PCT	GB						
Chicago Cubs	59	42	.584	-					
Milwaukee	58	46	.558	2-1/2					
Pittsburgh	53	50	.515	7					
St. Louis	51	51	.500	8-1/2					
Cincinnati	45	57	.441	14-1/2					
National League - West									
W	L	PCT	GB						
LA Dodgers	56	46	.549	-					
Arizona	56	47	.544	0-1/2					
Colorado	54	47	.535	1-1/2					
San Francisco	52	51	.505	4-1/2					
San Diego	42	63	.400	15-1/2					
MLB Linescores									
American League									
New York	010	000	010-2	7	0				
Tampa Bay	000	003	00x-3	7	1				
Cessa, Holder (6), Cole (7), Betances (8) and Higashioka; Stanek, Schultz (2), Castillo (5), Alvarado (7), Romo (8), Venter (9), Romo (9) and Moore. W-Castillo 2-1. L-Cessa 1-2. Sv-Romo (12). HRs-Tampa Bay, Cron (20), Kiermaier (5). L-Detroit 010 402 001-8 11 1									
Kansas City 010 010 002-4 11 0									
Boyd, VerHagen (7), Wilson (8), Greene (9) and J. Hicks; D. Duffy, Sparkman (6), Adam (9) and S. Perez. W-Boyd 5-9. L-Duffy 6-9. HRs-Detroit, Iglesias (4).									
Minnesota 030 001 020 06-12 17 0									
Toronto 110 010 030 00-6 16 1									
(11 innings)									
E. Santana, Duke (6), Pressly (7), Hildenberger (8), Belisle (9), Rodney (11) and Garver; Gaviglio, Loup (6), Clippard (7), Biagini (8), Tepera (8), J. Garcia (9), Petricka (11), Santos (11) and Maile. W-Belisle 1-0. L-Petricka 1-1. HRs-Minnesota, Garver (5).									
Oakland 100 000 302-6 12 1									
Texas 030 020 000-5 8 0									
Jackson, Pettit (5), Hatcher (6), Buchter (7), Trivino (8), Treinen (9) and Phegley; M. Perez, Gearrin (7), Claudio (8), Leclerc (9) and Chirinos. W-Trivino 8-1. L-Leclerc 2-3. Sv-Treinen (26). HRs-Oakland, Davis 2 (27). Texas, Chirinos (13).									
Chicago 000 200 001-3 6 1									
Los Angeles 110 045 00x-11 14 1									
Shields, Volstad (5), Santiago (7) and Narvaez; Skaggs, Bedrosian (7), Johnson (8), Parker (9) and Brice. W-Skaggs 8-6. L-Shields 4-12. HRs-Chicago, Davidson (15). Los Angeles, Trout 2 (28), Ohtani (9), Pujols (17).									
Interleague									
Pittsburgh	000	000	000-0	3	1				
Cleveland	002	000	02x-4	8	1				
Taillon, Crick (8), Vazquez (8) and Stallings; Bauer, Cimber (8), Hand (8) and R. Perez. W-Bauer 9-6. L-Taillon 7-8. Sv-Hand (25). HRs-Cleveland, Alonso (16).									
San Francisco 000 000 200-2 6 2									
Seattle 110 000 01x-3 4 2									
Holland, Black (7), Watson (8), Dyson (8) and Hundley; Leake, Nicasio (7), Colome (8), Diaz (9) and Zunino. W-Colome 3-5. L-Watson 3-4. Sv-Diaz (38). HRs-Seattle, Healy (21).									
Houston 000 200 000-2 1 0									
Colorado 010 000 101-3 8 2									
Morton, Smith (7), Sipp (7), McHugh (7) and Stassi; Gray, Ottavino (8), W. Davis (9) and T. Murphy. W-W. Davis 1-3. L-McHugh 5-1. HRs-Colorado, Gonzalez (12), Blackmon (20).									
National League									
San Diego	010	010	200-4	7	0				
New York	000	042	00x-6	5	0				
Richard, Maton (6), Strahm (7), Stammen (8) and Hedges; Oswalt, Peterson (6), Gsellman (7), Swarzak (8) and Plawecki. W-Oswalt 1-2. L-Richard 7-10. Sv-Swarzak (2). HRs-San Diego, Hedges (5), Galvis (5).									
New York, Bautista (6).									
Los Angeles 100 002 000-3 6 0									
Philadelphia 100 050 01x-7 7 3									
Buehler, Alexander (5), Ferguson (6), P. Baez (8) and Barnes, Grandal; Arrieta, Arano (7), Morgan (8), Dominguez (8) and Knapp. W-Arrieta 8-6. L-Buehler 4-3. Sv-Dominguez (10). HRs-Los Angeles, Muncy (24). Philadelphia, Hoskins (18), Kingery (5).									
St. Louis 001 001 100-3 10 0									
Cincinnati 200 102 02x-7 10 1									
Flaherty, Gant (6), Brebbia (7), Gregerson (8) and Molina; Romano, D. Hernandez (7), Hughes (8), Brice (9) and Barnhart. W-Romano 6-8. L-Flaherty 4-5. HRs-St. Louis, Molina (14), DeJong (9). Cincinnati, Suarez (22), Duval (15), Barnhart (6).									
Washington 300 031 000-7 4 1									
Milwaukee 000 000 003-3 7 1									
Roark, Solis (9), K. Herrera (9) and Wieters; F. Peralta, Lopez (7) and Pina. W-Roark 4-12. L-F. Peralta 4-2. HRs-Washington, Soto (11), Harper (25). Milwaukee, Perez (7).									
Arizona 000 000 100-1 5 2									
Chicago 000 100 01x-2 5 0									
Ray, McFarland (8) and J. Murphy; Lester, Edwards Jr (7), Strop (9) and Contreras. W-Edwards Jr 3-1. L-McFarland 2-2. Sv-Strop (4). HRs-Arizona, Pollock (13).									

Jets CB Robinson suspended four games by NFL

Colts' Luck aims to play in preseason opener

NEW YORK, July 26, (RTRS): The Indianapolis Colts expect to play quarterback Andrew Luck in their preseason opener against the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 9, coach Frank Reich said on Wednesday.

Luck reported to training camp this week and is expected to practice Thursday and Friday and then again on Sunday night after a rest day.

The 28-year-old quarterback, whose recovery stalled multiple times following January 2017 shoulder surgery, sat out the preseason and regular season but has slowly progressed since.

Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald did not report to the start of training camp as he continues to seek a new, long-term contract similar to those given to his teammates in recent days, according to media reports.

This marks the second consecutive year he has held out. Last season, he didn't join the Rams until the day before the season opener in September.

Atlanta Falcons head coach Dan Quinn and general manager Thomas Dimitroff signed three-year contract extensions through the 2022 season, the team announced.

Dimitroff, 52, is entering his 11th season with the Falcons. He hired Quinn — then defensive coordinator of the Seattle Seahawks — in 2015 to replace Mike Smith in Atlanta.

Four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Richard Sherman declared himself “100 percent” and was cleared to begin practice with his new team, the San Francisco 49ers.

The 30-year-old, who required season-ending surgery on a ruptured Achilles in November, received a \$2 million bonus for passing his pre-training camp physical.

Sherman, who played his first seven seasons with the Seattle Seahawks, signed a three-year, incentive-laden deal with the 49ers in March.

With a sudden need at wide receiver, the Cleveland Browns are mulling over a number of players who could step in. Dez Bryant apparently is among them.

General manager John Dorsey told reporters that the former Dallas star is among those players under consideration.

Released by the Cowboys in April, Bryant, 29, has not received great interest on the open market.

Rookie first-round pick Josh Allen has signed a four-year deal with the Buffalo Bills, the team announced.

Allen's deal is worth just over \$20 million and includes a fifth-year option. In 2017, the seventh overall pick — wide receiver Mike Williams of the Los An-

gels Chargers — signed a four-year, \$19.7 million deal.

The Cleveland Browns signed cornerback Denzel Ward, the No. 4 pick in the 2018 draft, to a rookie contract worth just over \$29 million over four years.

The signing bonus is \$19.5 million, and the Browns hold a fifth-year option.

The former Ohio State cornerback is said to be a favorite of defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and is expected to take over immediately as the team's No. 1 corner.

Odell Beckham Jr. is ready to go at New York Giants training camp, but head coach Pat Shurmur intends to take the long view with his No. 1 wide receiver.

The 25-year-old was limited for much of the offseason recovering from ankle surgery and was held out of team drills during minicamp.

Shurmur said the focus for Beckham will be playing in the regular-season opener on Sept. 9 against Jacksonville.

Defensive end Khalil Mack reportedly will not show up for the start of the Oakland Raiders' training camp on Thursday.



Luck

FOOTBALL

Versatile reliever Romo helps Tampa Bay hold off Yankees

Indians blank Pirates 4-0, end Pittsburgh's 11-game win streak

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, July 26, (AP): Sergio Romo relieved in the eighth inning, shifted to third base when Jonny Venters replaced him in the ninth, then struck out Brett Gardner to end the game with two on and give the Tampa Bay Rays a 3-2 win over the New York Yankees on Wednesday.

Scheduled Rays starter Nathan Eovaldi was traded to AL East-leading Boston about two hours before game time, and six pitchers combined on a seven-hitter.

New York has lost just two series since May, and both are against the Rays. Tampa Bay swept three games in late June, took two of three this week and has won six of its past seven against the Yankees. New York, 14-14 over its past 28 games, acquired reliever Zach Britton from Baltimore late Tuesday but said he will not report until Thursday's homestand opener against Kansas City.

Neil Walker hit a sacrifice fly in the second inning,



PRIME TIME

monday — (all times are kuwait local)

07:45 italy vs norway/soccer ..... bein sports 4 hd  
09:15 falcao vs espands/boxing ..... bein sports 7 hd  
10:45 al ahly vs rollers/soccer ..... bein sports 3 hd  
11:15 munguia vs smith/boxing ..... bein sports 7 hd  
12:00 atp 500 hamburg/tennis ..... bein sports 9 hd  
13:00 bastar vs nava/boxing ..... bein sports 7 hd  
15:30 china vs korea/basketball ..... bein sports 8 hd  
21:00 colombia vs brazil/basketball ..... bein sports 8 hd

# Sports

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## Demare silences critics with stage 18 win

Thomas keeps lead

PAU, France, July 26, (AFP): Frenchman Arnaud Demare silenced his critics with a superb sprint finish that grabbed him victory over compatriot Christophe Laporte in the 18th stage of the Tour de France on Thursday.

Britain's Geraint Thomas finished close behind to tighten his grip on the yellow jersey three days before the 21st and final stage in Paris.

The Welshman holds a 1min 59sec lead on Dutch rival Tom Dumoulin (Sunweb) with his Sky teammate and four-time champion Chris Froome in third at 2:31 heading into Friday's 19th stage.

"I think we're expecting the worst, hoping for the best," said Thomas, who is expecting attacks from his rivals on the final day in the mountains Friday.

Froome, notably, is expected to

### CYCLING

come under attack by Primoz Roglic as the Slovenian, in fourth 16secs behind him, targets a podium place in Paris.

Thomas added: "I think guys will try to take any opportunity they can. It will be interesting, but we've been riding really well all race."

What was the penultimate chance for a diminished sprint field to snatch some glory was not going to be missed by the fast men of the peloton.

And a day after Slovakian sprint king Peter Sagan suffered injuries in a crash that almost ended his campaign, Demare capitalised.

His Groupama team worked hard, first in easily chasing down an early



Kwasi Okyere of Bayern Munich (right), fights for the ball against Mattia Caldara of Juventus during their 2018 International Champions Cup at the Lincoln Financial Field on July 25, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Juve won 2-0. (AFP)

five-man breakaway, and particularly in the final, technical kilometres of the stage to make sure Demare was primed for a final burst to the line.

But the Frenchman, who angered Laporte by veering from his line when he sprinted from just inside 200 metres, was also inspired by comments aimed at him by Germany's Andre Greipel.

Greipel, one of several sprinters

to pull out in the Alps, while others, like Mark Cavendish and Marcel Kittel, missed the time cut, accused Demare of holding on to a car to make it through the mountains on stage 17.

"The best answer I could give Andre Greipel was to win today," said Demare, who faced similar accusations on his way to victory in Milan-San Remo in 2016.

"Obviously what he said hurt me, and was also insulting. It's regrettable that people doubt my performances."

"I know I'm not the best in the mountains,\* but I work hard to make sure I get through them."

Bora rider Sagan is mathematically assured of his sixth green jersey for the points competition but, having won three stages already, admitted he was lucky to still be in the race.

"I can't complain, I could be worse," said Sagan.

"I was in a lot of pain. Tomorrow will be much harder, but I consider myself lucky that, after such a crash, I'm still in the race and not sitting at home."

"But it was my own mistake yesterday. There was no motorbike in front of me. I flew into the forest, like a bird."

Colombian Nairo Quintana (Movistar) and Briton Adam Yates were among several riders caught up in a crash Thursday, although both got back on their bikes to finish the stage.



France's Arnaud Demare celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 18th stage of the 105th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, on July 26, between Trie-sur-Baise and Pau, southwestern France. (AFP)

### Tour de France Results/Standings

PAU, July 26, (RTRS): Results from Stage 18, Tour de France on Thursday.

#### Stage winners

1. Arnaud Demare (FRA) Groupama — FDJ 3:46:50; 2. Christophe Laporte (FRA) Cofidis, Solutions Crédits; 3. Alexander Kristoff (NOR) UAE Team Emirates; 4. Edvald Boasson Hagen (NOR) Team Dimension Data; 5. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA) Bahrain — Merida; 6. Maximiliano Richeze (ARG) Quick—Step Floors; 7. John Degenkolb (GER) Trek — Segafredo; 8. Peter Sagan (SVK) BORA — hansgrohe; Taylor Phinney (USA) Team EF Education First — 10. Timothy Dupont (BEL) Wanty — Groupe Gobert; 11. Yves Lampaert (BEL) Quick—Step Floors; 12. Jasper De Buyst (BEL) Lotto — Soudal; 13. Oliver Naesen (BEL) AG2R La Mondiale; 14. Reinardt Janse Van Den Dimension Data — 15. Jacopo Guarnieri (ITA) Groupama — FDJ; 16. Michael Hepburn (AUS) Mitchelton — Scott; 17. Andrea Pasqualon (ITA) Wanty — Groupe Gobert; 18. Lilian Calmejane (FRA) Direct Energie; 19. Nils Politt (GER) Team Katusha — Alpecin; 20. Magnus Cort (DEN) Astana Pro Team

#### Overall leaders

1. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky 74:21:01; 2. Tom Dumoulin (NED) Team Sunweb +1:59; 3. Chris Froome (GBR) Team Sky +2:31; 4. Primoz Roglic (SLO) Team LottoNL — Jumbo +2:47; 5. Nairo

Quintana (COL) Movistar Team +3:30; 6. Steven Kruijswijk (NED) Team LottoNL — Jumbo +4:19; 7. Mikel Landa (ESP) Movistar Team +4:34; 8. Romain Bardet (FRA) AG2R La Mondiale +5:13; 9. Daniel Martin (IRL) UAE Team Emirates +6:33; 10. Jakob Fuglsang (DEN) Astana Pro Team +9:31; 11. Alejandro Valverde (ESP) Movistar Team +11:25; 12. Ilmur Zakarin (RUS) Team Katusha — Alpecin +11:3; 13. Bob Jungels (LUX) Quick—Step Floors +14:20; 14. Pierre Latour (FRA) AG2R La Mondiale +16:03; 15. Guillaume Martin (FRA) Wanty — Groupe Gobert +22:30; 16. Egan Bernal (COL) Team Sky +24:34; 17. Warren Barguil (FRA) Team Fortuneo — Samsic +26:54; 18. Bauke Mollema (NED) Trek — Segafredo +27:22; 19. Tanel Kangert (EST) Astana Pro Team +27:35; 20. Domenico Pozzovivo (ITA) Bahrain — Merida +33:11.

#### King of the Mountains

1. Julian Alaphilippe (FRA) Quick—Step Floors 140; 2. Warren Barguil (FRA) Team Fortuneo — Samsic 73; 3. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky 54; 4. Nairo Quintana (COL) Movistar Team 40; 5. Tom Dumoulin (NED) Team Sunweb 39; 6. Daniel Martin (IRL) UAE Team Emirates 33; 7. Steven Kruijswijk (NED) Team LottoNL — Jumbo 32; 8. Rafal Majka (POL) BORA — hansgrohe 31; 9. Bauke Mollema (NED) Trek — Segafredo 29; 10. Primoz Roglic (SLO) Team LottoNL — Jumbo 26; 11. David Gaudu (FRA) Groupama — FDJ 25; 12. Pierre Rolland (FRA)

Team EF Education First — 23; 13. Tanel Kangert (EST) Astana Pro Team 22; 14. Rudy Molard (FRA) Groupama — FDJ; 15. Adam Yates (GBR) Mitchelton — Scott 20; 16. Chris Froome (GBR) Team Sky; 17. Mikel Nieve (ESP) Mitchelton — Scott 19; 18. Damiano Caruso (ITA) BMC Racing Team 16; 19. Lilian Calmejane (FRA) Direct Energie 15; 20. Greg Van Avermaet (BEL) BMC Racing Team

#### Points leaders

1. Peter Sagan (SVK) BORA — hansgrohe 467; 2. Alexander Kristoff (NOR) UAE Team Emirates 196; 3. Arnaud Demare (FRA) Groupama — FDJ 183; 4. John Degenkolb (GER) Trek — Segafredo 148; 5. Julian Alaphilippe (FRA) Quick—Step Floors 134; 6. Greg Van Avermaet (BEL) BMC Racing Team; 7. Andrea Pasqualon (ITA) Wanty — Groupe Gobert 107; 8. Sonny Colbrelli (ITA) Bahrain — Merida 92; 9. Daniel Martin (IRL) UAE Team Emirates 85; 10. Christophe Laporte (FRA) Cofidis, Solutions Crédits 82; 11. Alejandro Valverde (ESP) Movistar Team; 12. Geraint Thomas (GBR) Team Sky 78; 13. Thomas Boudat (FRA) Direct Energie 76; 14. Thomas De Gendt (BEL) Lotto — Soudal 71; 15. Lilian Calmejane (FRA) Direct Energie 69; 16. Yves Lampaert (BEL) Quick—Step Floors; 17. Nicolas Edet (FRA) Cofidis, Solutions Crédits 62; 18. Rafal Majka (POL) BORA — hansgrohe 61; 19. Jasper Stuyven (BEL) Trek — Segafredo 59; 20. Bauke Mollema (NED) Trek — Segafredo 58

Words from Grindel past have come back to haunt him

## DFB boss rejects Ozil racism charge, but admits mistake

BERLIN, July 26, (AFP): The chief of the German Football Association (DFB) on Thursday rejected accusations of racism by Mesut Ozil, but admitted he should have done more to protect the midfielder against discriminatory abuse.

In a four-page statement announcing his decision to quit playing football for Germany on Sunday, Ozil singled out football federation (DFB) boss Reinhard Grindel with harsh words.

"In the eyes of Grindel and his supporters, I am German when we win, but I am an immigrant when we lose," Ozil, who has Turkish roots,

### SOCCER

wrote Sunday in his lengthy farewell statement that unleashed a racism storm in Germany.

But Grindel rejected the accusation four days on and has not yielded to calls for him to quit.

"I say this openly that the personal criticism has affected me," he said.

"I am even more sorry for my colleagues, the many people working on a voluntary basis and the employees in the DFB, to be branded in connection with racism."

"For the federation as well as for me personally, I firmly reject this."

But Grindel acknowledged that he should have acted decisively to end the abuse against Ozil over a controversial photograph with Turkish

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, which led some to question the footballer's loyalty to Germany.

"On hindsight, I should have clearly said what is obvious to me personally and to all of us as a federation: any form of racist hostility is unbearable, unacceptable and cannot be tolerated."

"That's valid in the case of Jerome Boateng, that's valid for Mesut Ozil, and also valid for all players who have a migration background," he said, adding that it was regrettable that the photo was "misused for racist slogans".

In 2016, far-right leader Alexander Gauland took aim at defender Boateng, who was born in Berlin to a German mother and a Ghanaian father.

"People find him good as a footballer, but they don't want to have a Boateng as a neighbour," said Gauland.

Words from Grindel's past have come back to haunt him.

As a backbencher in 2004 in the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament, he said that "multiculturalism is in truth a mess".

In Ozil's scathing critique of Grindel, the Arsenal star said he tried to

explain his "heritage, ancestry and the reasoning" behind the Erdogan photo to the DFB boss.

But Grindel was "more interested in speaking about his own political views and belittling my opinion", said Ozil.

The playmaker has walked away from international football after a career that included a World Cup triumph, 92 appearances, 23 goals and 40 assists for Germany.

Born in Gelsenkirchen, he is a third generation German who counts among more than three million people of Turkish origin in Germany.

Since dropping the bombshell resignation, Ozil has been in Singapore with Arsenal on a pre-season tour, with the Gunners playing Atletico Madrid on Thursday.

But the midfielder was excluded from the matchday squad, Arsenal said on Twitter, explaining that he was among a trio returning from the World Cup who were "still in the early stages of their pre-season training".

Back in Germany, Grindel sought to move on from the Ozil saga to look at how the DFB can pick up the pieces after the World Cup debacle in which Germany crashed out during the group stage in Russia.

He noted that the debate on integration was an opportunity for the federation to bolster its work in the area, while adding that a "sound analysis" was needed of the "disappointing World Cup".



A banner showing Arsenal's Mesut Ozil is displayed at the stands during the International Champions Cup match between Arsenal and Atletico Madrid in Singapore on July 26. (AP)

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